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WHO CARES ABOUT PARKS?

A royal heritage
laid waste

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TWO REFS TO SHOUT AT

Greater control on
the football pitch

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SUITS FOR SMARTYPANTS

The vamp is back
in Fashion Review

Saturday Review

'People in the market who should have known better' anger prime minister

Major turns his fire on Bonn for ERM chaos

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, AND JOHN PHILLIPS

A DIPLOMATIC rift opened between Britain and Germany last night after John Major and Norman Lamont blamed Bonn's economic policies for the plunge of the pound and the troubles in the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, responded with a furious attack on Mr Lamont as the prime minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer made plain that there would be no imminent return to the ERM.

Britain would not resume its membership until the mechanism was run "in the interests of all the countries of Europe", Mr Major declared as he broke his silence on the sterling crisis that has prompted the abandonment of the central plank of his economic policy. The prime minister also indicated that the legislation ratifying the Maastricht treaty would not be brought back to the Commons until next year, irrespective of the outcome of tomorrow's referendum in France.

It also emerged that the prime minister is set to call a

summit of European heads of government in London soon after the French vote. Italy, France and Germany have been pressing for such a gathering.

Mr Major said in a series of television interviews that Britain could not return to the ERM until the "fault-lines" revealed by the extraordinary movement of currencies in the past few days had been repaired. Authoritative government sources are now saying that it could be months before Britain returns. One Euro-sceptic minister was reported to have remarked that Britain "could resume membership 'only over the dead body of half the cabinet'".

The extraordinary breach in relations with Bonn came after Mr Lamont said in a BBC Radio interview yesterday morning that Britain would not go back into the ERM unless Germany changed tack. "We want to be satisfied that German policy, which has produced many of the tensions within the ERM is actually going to have some changes and be able to operate in a more stable environment," he said. "I want to ask some questions about the

way in which co-operation between governments works."

Mr Major has set much store in building a close relationship with Herr Kohl. However, the government's irritation at the way in which Germany has stubbornly kept its interest rates high has now burst into the open.

Mr Major clearly endorsed Mr Lamont's attack and defended his Chancellor.

He said that he did not believe the crisis was Mr Lamont's fault. "I think it is quite unreasonable to blame the Chancellor for market movement of the sort we have not seen for over a quarter of a century." In a clear reference to remarks by Bundesbank officials, he spoke of the "catalyst of remarks in the market from people who should have known better, that there might be a realignment".

Herr Kohl was told of Mr Lamont's remarks in Florence, where he was attending an Italian-German summit, and he hit back angrily, saying such remarks were "inappropriate for a minister" and childishly simplistic. It is highly unusual for a government head to attack a senior minister in another country.

Giuliano Amato, the Italian prime minister, weighed in on Herr Kohl's behalf, saying that it was naive to blame the Germans, as the Italian press had done. "Believing there is always a bad guy with a big stick who hits the little guy belongs to the world of three to five-year-old children," he said. Herr Kohl said that what was true of the Italians also followed for the British.

John Smith, the Labour leader, mocked Mr Major's remarks. "It won't do to be blaming the nasty foreigners or blaming the system or seeking to put the responsibility on to others, because the plain fact is that Britain has been revealed as being in the second division of the European Community," he said.

The fault does not lie in the actions of others or in the system. It lies in the economic policies that Mr Major and his colleagues are following.

Mr Lamont emphasised his inclination to stay out of the ERM for some time and also raised hopes of further limited cuts in interest rates. "We are floating and we will

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ERM cracks widen, page 19

shares surge but pound drops

BY GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES surged yesterday on hopes of more base-rate cuts to come after the pound's exit from the exchange-rate mechanism. By the close, the FT-SE 100 index was up 83.1, at 2567, almost 200 points up since the close on Tuesday night when base-rate increases were feared as the pound hit its old floor in coming months.

The markets drew only one conclusion from Norman Lamont's statement: "We are floating and we will set monetary policy in this country to meet our objectives and it will be a British economic policy

and a British monetary policy."

The City sensed a turnaround in policy towards kick-starting the economy with cheaper money. Economists believe that interest rates could fall by two percentage points to 8 per cent in coming months.

Lower interest rates would help industry, raise confidence among consumers, help the housing market and ease the debt burden built up since the 1980s boom was quickly ended by high-interest-rate policies.

The pound, however, fell to

a new low against the mark, closing at DM2.6100, down 2.23 pence on the day. That represents a devaluation of 11.5 per cent from the old ERM midpoint of DM2.95 which applied until Wednesday evening. Against the dollar, the pound slipped by 2.15 cents to \$1.7435, a level far more helpful to British industry than last week's \$2.

Money markets too, began to anticipate cheaper money. Futures markets were looking for 8.5 per cent base rates by the end of the year.

Pound drops, page 19

How Britain poured £15 billion down the drain

Was John Major willing to risk all to go down fighting rather than admit that the game was up when it became obvious a day earlier? Anatole Kaletsky reconstructs the week's events

BRITAIN'S TREATY commitment to maintain its ERM parity until the Bank of England's official closing time at 4 pm. But if the decision to float the pound had been taken at the emergency meeting held that evening in the Chancellor's Treasury office, Britain would have avoided the loss of between £15 billion and £20 billion of its approximately £25 billion foreign exchange reserves.

According to British sources the main reason for refusing to devalue as early as Tuesday night was the government's reluctance to renege on its ERM commitments to European partners. "If we had called for a realignment or suspension as early as Tuesday night, the others would

have said we had not yet done all we could to defend sterling," one key official said. However this account does not square with the strong signals had been sent out throughout the past month by the Bundesbank and the German government, indicating that Germany was actively urging Britain to revalue. In fact, the immediate trigger for the sharp fall in sterling on Tuesday lunchtime was a news agency story that the German economics ministry was calling for another ERM realignment after the small devaluation of the lira announced on Sunday night.

There seem to be two other possible explanations of the government's decision not to devalue on

Tuesday. One is that some of its advisers still felt, against the evidence, that there was a sporting chance of holding out until the French referendum at the weekend. The other is John Major did not want to admit he was abandoning the defence of sterling, preferring to go down fighting in the market against overwhelming odds.

The end for sterling came quite suddenly, around 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning. Until that point, everyone was confident we would get through to the weekend, according to one trader. Sir Terence Burns, the permanent secretary of the Treasury, and Eddie George, the deputy governor of the Bank of England, "appeared to be very relaxed" according to one foreign source who spoke that morning to both men. The Bank of England was taking advantage of the

Continued on page 2, col 4

Polls point to 'yes' as franc feels the strain

FROM CHARLES BREMER IN PARIS

FRANCE closed its official referendum campaign last night with private polls showing a margin of about six points in favour of Maastricht and pleas from the great and the good to the citizen to save Europe and its financial system from dislocation.

As fevered last-minute appeals showered from opponents and supporters of European union at home and abroad, the financial markets took some assurance from private surveys reporting about 53 per cent of decided voters on the "yes" side. The vote had slipped back a point yesterday after a blip in the wake of news of President Mitterrand's prostate cancer, they said. However, with about 20 per cent undecided or planning to abstain, the outcome could hang on the turnout tomorrow for the eighth referendum in the 34-year history of the Fifth Republic. The law bans publication of polls in the final week and rumours of more negative sounding continued to flood nervous markets.

A senior French pollster

said last night that common figures among all six polling firms showed that "the 'no' cannot win on Sunday. If it does, this will be the first Waterloo for the French pollster business." He added that he discounted rumours that the national intelligence service was predicting a no. If that was true, he said, it would merely mean that its methods were unscientific.

Government and opposition leaders cited the currency turmoil, which yesterday began afflicting the franc, as a warning of far worse to come should citizens swim with the populist tide of rejection and heed the call for a

"non". Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, and his team have been using the language of catastrophe to depict the impact of a "no" but some opposition advocates were milder. "A victory for 'yes' would help to restore confidence," Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former president, said. "Rejection would aggravate the crisis and risk its spreading to other currencies."

Jacques Chirac, whose Gaullist RPR party has been torn apart by the referendum, said a "no" would "weaken and isolate France. The monetary storm shows we need more of Europe and not less."

Campaigning for his home country, Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, said: "France is at the top of the European rope. If it falls, you can guess what will happen to everyone else." The Bank of France intervened yesterday to support the franc as it came under speculative pressure. The markets believe that, although backed by a relatively strong economy, the currency could be forced downwards in the event of a "no".

Among other statesmen, Mikhail Gorbachev appealed yesterday in an open letter for a "yes" for the sake of the "construction of a new, more creative and more fraternal world".

In one of the strongest calls from the unanimously pro-Maastricht establishment, Jacques Lesourne, director of *Le Monde* wrote yesterday: "For France and Europe, a 'no' in the referendum would be the biggest catastrophe since the disasters brought on by Hitler's rise to power."

Such warnings were rejected. Continued on page 18, col 1

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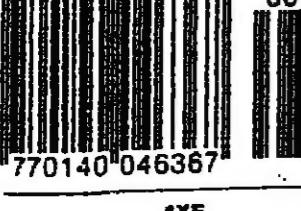
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History's message to the man at No 11: the worst is yet to come

NORMAN Lamont was sitting at his computer screen in the Treasury when interest rates were raised by two percentage points at 11am on Wednesday. At first, there was no reaction and he walked away for a moment. When he returned, the screens showed the response all too clearly: the pound was still in serious trouble. The attempt to stay in the exchange-rate mechanism was failing.

It had crossed his mind that something like that might happen. Floating had probably become inevitable by Tuesday evening, but senior ministers decided that they had to honour the spirit of the ERM's rules to show that Britain was trying to defend its parity. Hopes of getting through until the weekend were abandoned by Wednesday lunchtime, and the sec-

CHANCELLORS UNDER PRESSURE

As Norman Lamont takes refuge in calm after the storm, Peter Riddell says his respite is short-lived

ond rise in interest rates was just to buy time until the evening.

Yet now there is a curious sense of relief in the Treasury. The mood is relaxed. The rest of the cabinet has been sympathetic and supportive. It is like the calm that follows a violent storm.

In previous financial crises, there has often been a lull immediately afterwards. The government argues that its basic goals are unchanged and the cabinet puts on a display of unity. After a few days, the mood changes.

Politicians and the press realise that the change of policy involves pain. Those responsible for the earlier policy come under increasing criticism and resignations usually follow. Some previous chancellors have survived but their reputations have been severely and often permanently damaged.

There are two keys to survival: restoring market confidence and retaining the support of cabinet colleagues and backbenchers. Floating may permit some very limited easing of monetary condi-

tions that have been tighter than Britain would have liked. But ministers are worried that unrealistic expectations may be developing about how far interest rates

can be cut.

Mr Lamont's main political task will be his handling of the Commons debate next Thursday and the party conference two weeks later. Although Mr Major and the cabinet are at present rallying behind him, that is no long-term job guarantee.

He will need luck and determination to survive as Chancellor: a move to another cabinet post is just as likely. The precedents are not comfortable.

The November 1967 devaluation was, like Wednesday's floating of the pound, the culmination of a long struggle. Events then were as messy as

those of the past week. An imprecise answer in the Commons by James Callaghan, the Chancellor, led to heavy selling, and a loss of between £150 million and £200 million to reserves.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff defended the decision robustly, rather better than Harold Wilson, the prime minister, did. Richard Crossman described his Commons statement on devaluation as "a brilliant success". However, this was a smokescreen. Lord Callaghan had already sold the prime minister on the day of devaluation that he wanted to resign as Chancellor, but not from the government.

Meanwhile, the government came under increasing fire in the Commons, and in the press, and questions arose about the prime minister's survival. So he decided to



Shared experience: Lords Callaghan and Healey

keep Lord Callaghan in the cabinet and made Roy Jenkins the Chancellor. There was, however, then an 18-month struggle, while the government introduced tough tax and spending measures and faced the resignation of three cabinet ministers

before the economy turned round and market confidence was restored.

The 1976 crisis was longer drawn out because the pound was still floating. There were a series of episodes — interest rate rises, an international credit and, finally, recourse to

the International Monetary Fund. The subsequent cabinet debate exposed deep divisions within the Labour leadership, which contributed to the party's turnout after its defeat at the 1979 election.

Denis Healey survived through his robustness, aided by the political restraint of Sir Geoffrey Howe, his shadow. He managed to turn the tables as confidence improved in 1977. However, the scars of 1976 probably ensured that he never became Labour leader.

He later recalled that a favourite topic of discussion when he was a student communist was "Who will do the dirty work under socialism"? He later discovered that the answer was "Denis Healey". Mr Lamont must feel he is having to do the dirty work under Majorism.

Lamont faces rough ride from Tory rank and file

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE economy and Europe are set to dominate the Conservative party conference in Brighton next month with the grass roots of the party calling for slashed interest rates and a permanent withdrawal from the ERM.

Conference organisers have allocated a double session for foreign affairs and Europe, reflecting the high number of motions submitted for debate, many of which raise fears of an over-centralised Europe.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, faces a rough ride on the Thursday when he replies to a debate calling for the government "to continue to

CONFERENCE AGENDA

build on the economic achievements of the 1980s".

Although conference motions were submitted well before the present financial crisis, many question the government's policy and call for lower interest rates, tax cuts and the abolition of the inheritance tax. Others press the Chancellor to invest in industry through tax incentives and skills training.

Several motions are critical of the ERM and one denounces the "artificially high interest rates required to maintain the pound's value within the ERM which are prolonging the recession".



Hands full: Sir Norman Fowler, Tory party chairman, launching the conference agenda at Conservative headquarters yesterday

gates will take the view that under difficult circumstances we have taken the right decision."

It was the government's intention "to make the conquest of inflation our number one aim", he said. "One of the successes of the government is that we have low inflation in this country. We have also got lower expectations of wages and earnings than I can remember for many years."

John Mason, the conference chairman, predicted an interesting and very lively conference, saying that participants would be honest and tolerant. "Voluntary workers have a clear sense of realism about the difficulties and problems but the conference gives our representatives a proper platform to express their views."

Of the 196 motions submitted for the foreign affairs debate, 180 relate to Europe. However, the motion chosen for debate encouraging the government to continue to build an outward-looking Community fails to reflect many of the critical resolutions sent in by Conservative associations. Many are critical of a federal Europe and one of them calls for a referendum on Maastricht.

A motion from Luton South calls on the government to ensure that "the shackles of State socialism so successfully rolled back during the past 13 years are not reimposed by a Federal Europe".

Another from Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire, urges the government to "resist all proposals to create a federal state".

Others call for strict controls over the "bureaucratic tendencies of the unelected Commission" and an end to "interference in the nooks and crannies of British life by unelected bodies overseas".

Seventeen subjects have been chosen for debate with home affairs being the most popular topic with 215 motions submitted for debate.

The perennial call for the introduction of the death penalty, tougher penalties for joyriders, action against travellers and the reintroduction of caning in schools are also mentioned.

Sir Norman said that he would be meeting Baroness Thatcher to discuss her attendance at the conference next week, though it is unclear how much of a platform she will be given. "We will make arrangements to receive Margaret Thatcher. She will get the applause I would expect for a leader regarded with some affection inside the party."

Sir Norman said that unlike the Labour and Liberal conferences, there would be no need for a post-mortem about the election. "The party recognises the prime Minister's central role in that election victory and the conference will make that clear."

Rules bar challenge this year

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ACCORDING to a report circulating at Westminster yesterday, one senior cabinet minister has hazarded the view that John Major would take Britain back into the ERM only over the dead bodies of half the cabinet.

It was an unconfirmed but plausible remark, indicative of the attitude among Tory MPs now towards a once-revered mechanism.

An immediate return would unleash a huge revolt on the Tory back benches, and some opponents have been heard to whisper that

LEADERSHIP

Mr Major's leadership would face a challenge.

Mr Major is, however, safe for some considerable time. New rules for electing Tory leaders, brought in after Baroness Thatcher's downfall, prevent a contest until the start of the next session of parliament, likely to be in November 1993, after the present session.

Some MPs had thought that a challenge was permitted up to October 27, because one rule says that an election can take place up to six months after the assembly of a new parliament, which happened when MPs met on April 27.

When Major's request for such an election must be made within three months of the new parliament's start. The deadline passed on July 27.

Any MP wanting to embarrass Mr Major must wait until the next session.

Baker finds a role with Tory rebels

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

EURO-SCPTIC forces at Westminster, hoping that tomorrow's French vote will herald victory in the Maastricht debate, are likely to line up behind a new general in their fight to kill off the treaty.

Kenneth Baker, the former home secretary, has presented himself as the obvious new leader of a backbench campaign to sway John Major's government from its pro-Europe stance. During the recess, Mr Baker has been vociferous on Europe, showing his potential as a painful irritant to a government anxious to dampen backbench opposition.

In the run-up to the French referendum, his comments calling for a slowdown on Europe have made Tory Eurosceptics more confident. Yesterday, he told Norman Lamont not to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism.

Calling for Britain to take charge of its own destiny outside the ERM, he went further than many backbench colleagues in demanding a cut in interest rates to six per cent. "We are now in charge of our

own interest rates and the Chancellor should reduce interest rates. He should make a start by reducing them today," he said on BBC Radio 4's *Today*.

His calls, during future Commons debates, for a slowing down on moves towards a fully-integrated Europe will not be shrugged off easily by a government which has previously belittled the influence of the Euro-sceptic lobby. In the absence of a minister prepared to oppose government policy publicly, Mr Baker represents the anti-Maastricht faction's next best alternative.

Mr Baker's reputation as one of the party's most eloquent and persuasive media performers is seen by Tory rebels as good reason for him

EURO-SCPTICS

becoming the most prominent dissenting voice. As former party chairman, he can still exert considerable influence over the Thatcherites. He may also be able to help stiffen the resolve of those new Tory MPs, some of whom have already tentatively aired doubts over Maastricht, but who might waver.

His main difficulty is that he might be discredited by some ministers as "yesterday's man", bearing a grudge against Mr Major for being swept out of office after the last election. In June, Mr Baker in the Commons publicly challenged Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, to modify the Maastricht treaty and slow the pace of its ratification.

Since then, he has written newspaper articles proposing an end to the treaty in its present form and supporting the French "No" campaign.

BOSNIA & CROATIA NOVEMBER 1992 CHILDREN WILL FREEZE TO DEATH

"A few short weeks from now freezing fog, sub-zero temperatures and snow will arrive in Bosnia and Croatia. When this happens tens of thousands of refugees, already suffering the effects of war, will be at even greater risk. They will die from exposure or, because the roads are impassable, they will simply starve. As ever it is the children who are most at risk" says David Grubb, Executive Director. Feed the Children.

FEED THE CHILDREN IS TAKING AID NOW

Feed the Children has been distributing emergency aid in former Yugoslavia since July. We've taken food, medicine and clothing to those whose need is greatest. Now we are in a race against time. Once winter sets in the current crisis could develop into a major catastrophe. We need your help for the next deliveries.

We have a matter of weeks to get food, blankets, clothing and medicine to the refugees. If we fail they will surely perish. We have the lorries and the warehouses.

We need your help to fill those lorries. Please do all you can.

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How Britain poured £15bn of reserves down the drain

Continued from page 1
optimism by intervening tactically to boost sterling and encouraging the banks with which it dealt to publicise this around the market.

Around 11 o'clock, sentiment suddenly changed. According to some dealers, the catalyst was the Reuters report about Germany calling for a realignment. Others say the market was rattled when the lire suddenly fell through its ERM midpoint. The large institutional currency funds were trying to liquidate their lire portfolios. The peseta also fell through its ERM midpoint. According to one trader, the Bank of Spain had felt so relaxed earlier that morning that it did not even notice at first when its currency plunged.

Investors began to feel that the new ERM rates agreed on Sunday were not holding. Suddenly, nobody in the market wanted to buy any of the vulnerable currencies, including sterling. By 11 o'clock, the Bank must have started to sense trouble because it started to disguise its intervention as ordinary commercial buying. But the selling pressure built up. By 1pm, some of the best-placed dealers began to realise there were simply no genuine buyers left for sterling. The Bank of England stood alone.

"Everyone was hitting them with sterling," according to one dealer. Any

private bank that got a selling order from a client began to pass it immediately to the dealers at Threadneedle Street, signalling a collapse of market confidence in the pound.

Although the weight of sellers was not as great as it would be the following morning, and the pound was not at its absolute ERM floor, the game was up, although most of the market did not yet realise it. One official adviser, when asked that afternoon whether he would copy Mr Major and change his travel plans, replied: "What more can we do, whether we go abroad or stay at home?"

Despite sensing the futility of its defence, the Bank continued to buy

heavily throughout the afternoon, trying to keep the pound above its ERM floor to disguise the fact that it was the only buyer left in the market. An increase in interest rates was considered at various stages throughout the day, but officials with a feel for the market argued that raising interest rates would only confirm the government's desperation. That was, in fact, exactly how the market interpreted the 2 percentage point rate hike announced on Wednesday morning.

By the time the government raised rates again to 15 per cent, even the least well-connected City analysts concluded that the government's defence was about to collapse.

German press hails Mark, heroic victor in currencies battle

WORLD VIEWS

THE German government rallied round the battered European Monetary System (EMS) yesterday as the German press hailed the strength of its national currency and indulged in boisterous *Schadenfreude* over the plight of sterling.

Although *Deutschland über alles* may not be sung in polite official circles, yesterday even the more staid newspapers were close to crowing: "Deutschmark über alles". Helmut Kohl, worried that the strength of the mark might frighten French voters to reject the Maastricht treaty tomorrow, made reassuring noises from Italy where he was discussing Europe with Giuliano Amato, the Italian prime minister. The German chancellor, reiterating his faith in European monetary union, said that John Major had already told him that Britain would be re-entering the exchange-rate mechanism as soon as possible. He also called for an emergency EC summit next week to study the lessons of the past week.

Although opinion polls in Germany again show a slight majority in favour of Maastricht, Herr Kohl has ruled out any possibility of holding a referendum on the subject. A nationwide Infas poll found 60 per cent support for Maastricht, while a Sample Institute poll in the west revealed only 32 per cent were opposed to it. A research institute at Leipzig, in the east, found 22 per cent would not support Maastricht, while 42 per cent were in favour.

The polls were taken, however, before the currency crisis, which appears to have confirmed the deeply held view that no Euro-currency can ever be as stable as the mark. Earlier polls have consistently shown over 80 per cent are against giving up the mark, as laid down at Maastricht, because of the danger that a Euro-currency linked to weaker, less disciplined economies would be unable to prevent inflation and economic collapse.

Newspapers of all persuasions yesterday agreed with *Die Welt* that through their stability, the Germans, who provide the anchor of the exchange rate system and who have to worry over its strength, make the decisive contribution by which the EMS operates.

"If others are less successful, the cause is their lack of discipline. Stability begins at home — where else, certainly not in Brussels." The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* had no sympathy for City bleats that the Bundesbank had precipitated the run on sterling. "Serves them right for the rumours floated by London stock marketeers aiming to sow uncertainty on German markets," the conservative daily commented. The leading financial paper, *Handelsblatt*, was no less restrained. Blaming the Bundesbank president for what happened "is a grotesque overestimation of his power," the paper said. "The problems are all home made ... The British, who first fully entered the system two years

The world's media are showing little sympathy for Britain's 'home made' problems

ago, brought in their currency with far too high a rate of exchange." But the mass circulation *Bild* captured the general mood, in which even Theo Waigel, the finance minister, joined. He argued that the turbulence of the past week showed the need for a Euro-currency for which the strong mark "must become a symbol". He predicted, too, that "the interest rate in Germany can sink again — provided we hold down government spending and wages". His brief guess column got little space, however, compared with that devoted to the new national hero.

"I'm called Mark and my family goes back to ancient times," the hero wrote in what amounted to his guest column. Stuttgart Kickers may have beaten Leeds United 3-0 in the European Cup on Wednesday, but that was nothing to what "Mark" did to the pound on the same day in what is billed as "the battle of the currencies". Thanks to Mark, Germans can now buy cheap Florentine handbags, go for cut-price salmon fishing holidays in Scotland and get British life insurance for 30 per cent lower premiums than German ones. Leather jackets from Spain are 15 per cent cheaper, textiles from France are down by the same amount. Dutch tomatoes and Danish furniture are 10 per cent cheaper. Polish turkeys and Czech bread rolls are being delivered into Germany at rock-bottom prices. When the EC internal market opens up next year things will be even cheaper, and all thanks to Mark.

Mark tells his family story. "Grandpapa Mark lived from 1871 to 1923. Then he died of consumption ... people said he had 'gross inflation'. Papa Reichsmark was ruined by the Nazis. Died 1948 — currency reform. 'I came into the world on the same day. Everyone wants to snuggle up to me. English, Swedes, Spaniards.

If others are less successful, the cause is their lack of discipline. Stability begins at home — where else, certainly not in Brussels." The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* had no sympathy for City bleats that the Bundesbank had precipitated the run on sterling. "Serves them right for the rumours floated by London stock marketeers aiming to sow uncertainty on German markets," the conservative daily commented. The leading financial paper, *Handelsblatt*, was no less restrained. Blaming the Bundesbank president for what happened "is a grotesque overestimation of his power," the paper said. "The problems are all home made ... The British, who first fully entered the system two years

The Italians are the most passionate.

"Will I disappear in six years? Nooo! I prefer to believe that the new Euro-money will be called D-mark. Because I am so strong. Anyway, D-mark somehow sounds better than 'Hey cow' (Ecu)."

Italy

The Italian prime minister, Giuliano Amato, sprang to the defence of Chancellor Kohl for Germany's handling of the currency crisis during his visit to Rome. "Believing there is always a bad guy with a big stick who hits the little guy belongs to the world of three to five-year-old children," said Signor Amato.

Italian newspapers were divided over the likelihood of John Major's government surviving this week's financial crisis intact (Philip Willan writes).

"The currency crisis will have serious political consequences," the Turin daily *La Stampa* reported from London. "Major is defending the Chancellor but, sooner or later, Lamont will have to be sacrificed."

"The market won in the end and sterling has been devalued in a situation dominated by chaos and incompetence," said the Milan-based *Corriere della Sera*.

The Rome daily *La Repubblica* said that Mr Major and Mr Lamont could yet save their political careers "because they have distanced themselves not only from the EMS but from the whole edifice of the EC". The two men would claim credit for pulling Britain out of the EMS while drawing a veil over their own roles in the decision to join in 1989.

France

Le Figaro (conservative) said: "John Major has obeyed the same reflex as Edward Heath when he pulled sterling out of the 'serpent' in 1972: both of them threw to the winds the principle of stability in foreign exchange. Anglo-Saxon monetarism obeys other principles than the German one. But all European construction was founded on a common concept: monetary stability and convergence of economies. This credo has now been brutally thrown into question." (Charles Bremner writes).

Japan

Japan has watched the currency turmoil in Europe with considerable unease, its newspapers devoting the front pages of their morning and evening editions to blow-by-blow accounts of the crisis (Anna Pitman writes). But there have been strong signals that the Japanese, often accused of burying their heads at times of international crises, are viewing the problem simply as "a fire on the other side of the river".

Prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa told a news conference yesterday that he does not expect interest rate fluctuations in Europe to affect Japanese rates, but implied that he was concerned about the possible political ramifications of ongoing events. Japanese businessmen are worried that

Sinking pound takes the spirit of Dunkirk with it

BRITISH VIEWS

Joe Joseph checks out the nation's ego and finds it in urgent need of a massage

see how anybody looking at recent events will say that Britain is great."

Emily Crowley, 26, a management consultant from Wimbledon, south London, said: "Britain is in danger of being left behind. Once again we are the weak nation of Europe."

François Benson, 27, a student from Nottingham, said: "I am not really bothered about what the rest of the world thinks, but I am sure that the way things have gone we must be the laughing stock of Europe."

John Patrick, 32, an insurance broker from Alfreton, Derbyshire, thought Britain's reputation abroad probably had been damaged: "I cannot

from York said: "No one can plan for the future and, as for a loss of British prestige, I don't see much prestige around to lose."

Sanjay Patel, 27, a newsagent, born in India and now living in Haslemere, Surrey, said: "I was not proud to be British on Thursday because the people who are supposed to run the country weren't doing their job. We probably are a laughing stock for the Germans, but other countries will probably end up like us."

But there are pockets of punchier spirits.

Audrey Bainbridge, a Conservative county councillor from Buckinghamshire, said: "I think that now we have come out of the ERM, maybe the British can show the world what they can do in spite of it. In a quirky sort of way there is a sense of relief that the British can do their own thing and take charge of their own economy."

Keith Hobson, 38, an Aberdeen accountant, was even more upbeat. He said: "I don't think it has affected my patriotism because we have shown that we will stand up to the Europeans and refuse to be dictated to by a foreign bank."

"Yet again Britons have had to make a stand and, hopefully, show the correct way forward."

Alan Ridgway, an engineer



Goodies and baddies: Giuliano Amato, Italy's prime minister, condemned press criticism of Germany's handling of the currency crisis. "Believing there is always a bad guy with a big stick who hits the little guy belongs to the world of children," he said. Chancellor Kohl said that Signor Amato's comments applied equally to British critics. "What is true for the puppet theatre in the Pincio [in Rome] is true also for London"

writes). "This revives an old national cliché: when Great Britain joins a club it does so only to better sabotage it."

Le Quotidien (conservative), said: "The successor to Margaret Thatcher is paying today the political price of an unrealistic economic policy. This was the political decision two years ago to fix sterling exchange rates with the DM which the experts considered were too high."

Liberation (left-chic) said Britain's crisis only confirmed the need to move to monetary union. *Le Monde* (centre-left-technocrat) said the British and Italian action had caused the EMS to "explode". The Bundesbank was right, it said, "to argue that it is and will be impossible to maintain indefinitely exchange rates fixed between countries with economic situations as different as those of the EEC".

the prolonged confusion in EC currency markets will lead to a stalemate in intra-regional trade and cross-border investment, which turn adversely affect EC economies.

Belgium

The Belgian press, which strongly supports closer European union and a single currency, denounces market speculators for unleashing a whirlwind but does not appear to think that the ideals of the Maastricht treaty are in danger. "The Belgian franc stays solid," reported *La Libre Belgique* yesterday with an almost audible sigh of relief. The paper's commentators and the finance minister Philippe Maystadt said that the only real protection from such financial turbulence is faster monetary union while down-

playing the fact that Belgium's enormous public debt at present disqualifies it from the single currency foreseen in the Maastricht treaty.

AUSTRALIA

Australians love financial sagas with a human element. Under the banner headline "Money Markers Go Berserk" — a rare editorial outburst in the serious *Sydney Morning Herald* — the story of Europe's financial nightmare was spread across the entire front page. A grim-faced John Major was pictured with a London policeman, alongside a young trader caught praying in the London Futures Exchange.

Spain

El Mundo newspaper in Madrid said yesterday: "The Third World War has broken out. The British, in their desire to find a scapegoat for their monetary blunders, have accused the Bundesbank."

El País

Spain's largest circulation daily paper said: "The report said: 'The accusations against the German finance authorities seemed to come from Major and were yesterday echoed by the strengthened legion of Eurosceptics."

Sweden

Dagens Nyheter, Sweden's largest morning daily compares John Major's plight to that of Harold Wilson, who was forced to cave in to market forces in 1967 after brave words in defence of sterling. Today, prime minister Major is "humiliated" an editorial said.



Unfriendly headlines: Europe's press yesterday

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The sterling fiasco

Wednesday, September 16, was the most extraordinary day the financial markets have ever seen. Having brought the lira down, the speculators zeroed in on sterling. By



night-time, despite the threat of 15% interest rates, sterling had gone too and the ERM was in ruins. What is the fall-out? For the chancellor, for the government, for business, for homeowners and for savers?

Tomorrow's Sunday Times provides the most detailed guide on what happened and why, and analyses the impact

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Leading lady: Elisabeth Guigou, European affairs minister, who has led the "yes" campaign

How snapshot surveys can blur reality

OPINION POLLS

Although the French are traditionally pro-European, tomorrow's turnout will be crucial in a referendum that could go either way. Robert Worcester writes

THE French are pro-Europe, or so the opinion polls tell us. In June, we read reports that the French would have voted by 70 per cent to 30 per cent for their government to ratify the Maastricht treaty. Now, will they? Well, yes and no.

Over the years, successive soundings of public opinion in Denmark showed the Danes (along with the British) to be the reluctant Europeans. Torn between their traditional loyalty to their Scandinavian cousins and fear of German domination, and their wish to play an economic role in the Common Market, the Danes have blown hot and cold on closer links with the European Community even more than the British.

If any country was likely to vote against the thrust of the closer monetary and political ties suggested by the Maastricht accord, it was the Danes. As the Danish referendum on Maastricht on June 2 grew nearer, wide levels of support in the Danish polls for closer ties grew steadily weaker during a peak of effective campaigning by those opposed and a superior "we know what's best for you" stance by those in favour.

The final polls, published

on the eve of the Danish referendum from field work taken two and three days before, showed a likely narrow vote for ratifying the treaty. As we learnt the day after, the final verdict was 50.7 per cent against, 49.3 per cent for Maastricht. The fat was in the fire, and the profound results are evident in worldwide concern over the French vote tomorrow.

Ireland was always a different matter than Denmark or France. Ireland, one of the countries which most benefits from EC subsidies, especially under the common agricultural policy, and a country still dominated in its politics by the farming vote, has always shown wide support for integration with other communities, especially if it weakens Irish dependence on British markets. More than three in four Irish people said they would vote to stay in the

European Community if a referendum were held on that issue, a Mori poll in *The European* showed in June, and only 11 per cent said they would vote to get out, a 7-1 margin, one of the widest of any EC country.

Yet the polls conducted during the Irish referendum on Maastricht on June 19 — which started off with 70 per cent yes, 30 per cent no, and then narrowed — failed to forecast the final result of 61 per cent to 39 per cent. Why? Three reasons: first, polls never, except by accident, predict the future. They are only a snapshot at a point in time: a thermometer, not a barometer, of events; second, if as wide a margin as 2-1 is what late polls show, people know they can safely "send a message" and vote for the other side of the issue; third, the public, and especially the media, reacts to polls pub-

lished during election campaigns, and the public reacts to the reaction.

The French referendum tomorrow has been marked by a plethora of poll reports: seven in one day a fortnight ago, which have shown a steady slide from the 70 per cent to 30 per cent start to a narrow margin ten days ago, to two private polls for banks released earlier this week, showing 56 per cent for and 44 per cent against (perhaps showing reaction to the possibility of a "no" vote) to a wafer-thin 52 per cent for and 48 per cent against, published in *The Daily Mail* yesterday and carried out on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Publication of poll figures is banned in France in the final seven days of a campaign. This is why French and foreign banks, money dealers and stockbrokers there, here and elsewhere have commissioned French pollsters to carry out "private" polls for their own use first and then leak them to the media. This has led to the media publishing such polls abroad.

The French equivalent of the City knows the results. The politicians and the media know: only the French public

"yes" campaign, pitted against Philippe Seguin for the "no". Turnout will be crucial, as will the centre-ground supporters' antipathy for being on the same side, against Maastricht, as the Communist party and Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front. If they stay at home tomorrow instead of voting "no", the "yes" may narrowly have it. If they vote, it will go against.

What polls across Europe have shown, conclusively, is that people want to be consulted, to have their say about these momentous issues. Across the Twelve, even in Luxembourg where so many of their citizens are employed by the EC, by 2-1 they say they want a referendum on Maastricht, as have the Danes, the Irish and the French. Mori's poll in Thursday's *European* from field work earlier this week showed that 61 per cent of the British want their say, and only 16 per cent say they want parliament to decide. It may be tomorrow that the French will speak for Britain.

Robert M. Worcester is chairman of Mori, and visiting professor of government at London School of Economics.

EC bigwigs careful not to be caught out celebrating

BY JOE JOSEPH

For those who believe the European Community's main purpose is to squeeze the fun out of life, tomorrow night might be a useful time to gather evidence.

If you happen to hear some Cole Porter fan crooning *What a swell party this is*, they probably won't be singing it in French. Parisians are not planning to have swell parties for fear that before the champagne runs out they might be having to sing *Did you hear about dear France, got run down by an avalanche*.

Community bigwigs are scared of being caught carousing should voters decide to turn their backs on Maastricht. They are just as anxious about making a big fuss over something that they are pretending is something of a formality, merely an opportunity for the French to reaffirm their commitment to the EC.

President Mitterrand is likely to be at the Elysée, panicking in private with a posse of advisers, although the interior ministry will be holding a discreet gathering. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the right-wing National Front leader, plans to stay at home in St Cloud, on the edge of Paris, to watch the results on television, although journalists who drop by will be given pastis and pomme.

Giscard d'Estaing, the former president, will attend a Paris soirée organised by his opposition centre-right UDF party. Elisabeth Guigou, the European affairs minister, will vote in Avignon and return to Paris.

The British embassy has decided against a referendum razzle but our diplomats will be waiting up to relay their impressions to London.

Lady Thatcher will be attending dinner in New York on Sunday night on a private tour of America, but she will keep in constant touch with developments. However, she is expected to keep her views to herself.

John Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who probably will not have that option, will be in London. Norman Lamont will be grateful to be in Washington.

PARTY TIME

ton for the International Monetary Fund annual meeting.

John Smith, the Labour leader, will also be in London when the result is announced, after attending the Battle of Britain memorial service in Westminster Abbey. Having seen in April how awkwardly post-vote parties can backfire, he will be keeping abreast of the news in private.

Tony Benn, who has been

making plenty of noise about the treaty, will be making some more. He appears tomorrow on a Sky News programme about Maastricht.

But even the Bruges group

of Tory Eurosceptics has decided not to organise a whoop-or-weep party.

The mood in Brussels, never known for its social zip, is gloomy: no big parties. With the federal dream under threat, no embassy or commission or multinational firm wants to risk looking like they are celebrating the treaty's downfall. In Brussels it is politically incorrect to favour the "No" faction. It is barely acceptable to be agnostic. Skeptics do it in private.

The European Commission headquarters will be open, with a commissioner, Belgium's Karel van Miert, on hand for reaction. The commission promises French TV relays but no champagne.

Jacques Delors, the EC president, will be somewhere in Paris and a sweat. Sir Leon Brittan is flying back to Brussels from Teeside tomorrow, but hasn't quite decided yet how to spend the evening.

Most EC embassies will be burning midnight oil to send dispatches to their capitals, having been bitten once already by the surprise of the Danish referendum result.

Most EC foreign ministers will be in New York for the UN General Assembly. Douglas Hurd and Roland Dumas do not plan to fly to Manhattan until Monday morning. The 12 members of the EC plan to meet in New York later that day, apparently irrespective of the result.

Overseas ballots could sway result

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AFTER weeks of passionate campaigning, and countless opinion polls, 38 million French people finally get the opportunity to vote on the Maastricht treaty on European union tomorrow. The question they will be faced with is: "Do you approve the draft law submitted to the French people by the president of the republic authorising the ratification of the treaty on European union?" Voters have to place a "yes" or a "no" slip in an envelope and put it in a ballot box.

Polling stations open at 8am local time. The first polls in rural areas will close at 6pm, and those in cities and towns at 8pm. Interior ministry figures show 38,039,841 eligible voters registered. Each

has been sent the full text of the treaty.

Voting in France's overseas territories will be out of step due to local time differences. The 350,000 voters of Martinique and Guadeloupe in the Caribbean (nearly 1 per cent of the electorate) will be able to vote up to six hours after polls close in metropolitan France. Overseas votes could thus make a crucial difference if the contest is close.

TV and radio stations will broadcast computer forecasts based on partial returns from the provinces at 8pm local time and a provisional final result will be issued at about midnight.



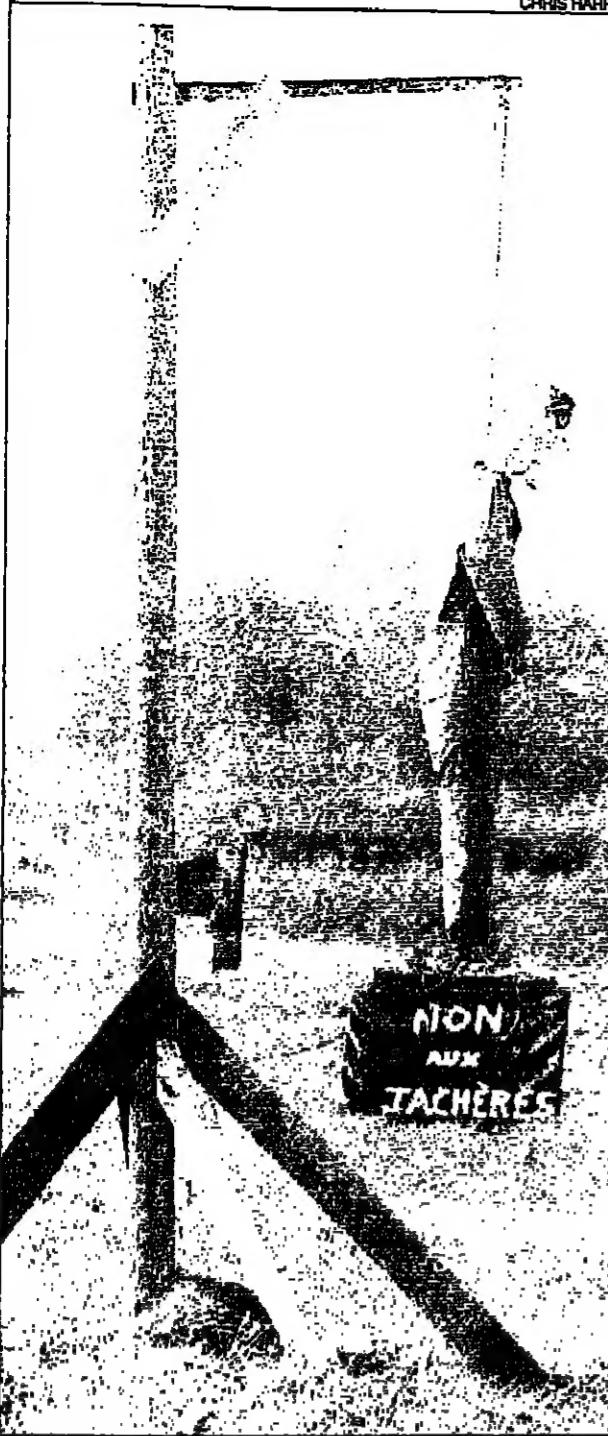
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CHRIS HARRIS



Body politic: a Mitterrand effigy hanging near Marseilles, where farmers' opposition to Maastricht is strong. The slogan says "no to fallow land"

TV sticks to sex and royalty

By MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THEY cleared schedules for the Gulf war. They cancelled programmes for the general election. But for the French verdict on Maastricht, Britain's four main television channels have not thought it worth their while to reschedule such Sunday night blockbusters.

MEDIA

ers as *The Night Stalker*, *The Lost Boys*, *The Club*, *The Monarchy*, *Derrick* or *The Rosary Murders*. They are not alone. German television will not be broadcasting any special Maastricht programmes, nor will the Dutch.

In Britain, sterling's hasty retreat from the European exchange rate mechanism has diminished the importance of tomorrow's referendum result. Only the most dedicated of those viewers without satellite dishes will be able to watch the results unfold on Channel 4's *Midnight Special*.

As the polls close at 7pm British time and the first exit poll results begin to trickle in, only Sky News, the 24-hour satellite news station, will be there live from both Paris and the International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington. Everyone else will have to wait for Jeremy Paxman at 9.50pm with a half-hour *Newsnight* special on BBC2.

Lycée ready for brisk ballot day

By RAY CLANCY

POLLING at the French Lycée in London is expected to be busy tomorrow as the 5,000 French men and women living in the capital vote on the Maastricht treaty.

The doors will open at 8am and close ten hours later. "We expect most of those who are registered to vote," said a spokeswoman at the French embassy. "It is an important referendum." French nationals elsewhere in Britain should have organised a proxy vote.

An official party has been organised at the French Institute, in South Kensington. Up to 400 people have been

LONDON

invited to watch the debate on French television relayed on two large screens. Bernard Dorin, the French ambassador, and several British diplomats head the guest list.

In the French triangle in South Kensington, the mood was one of indifference yesterday. The treaty was a boring subject, according to French people on the streets.

"The future of France is at stake, not because of the vote but because of Mitterrand's health. Whatever way the vote goes, France will be strong. An unfit president and the possibility of an early election could make France weak," said Roger Rollat, a student.

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THIS was the week that the Marseilles author Jean Contrucci, also a journalist on the city's *Le Provençal* daily, won the Provence grand literature prize and the week the metro line was extended to La Timone. It was also the week that the politicians came to campaign on Maastricht. But nobody noticed.

The Marseillais are bored and annoyed with their reputation for being France's most violent and criminal citizens. And to be fair, many good deeds went unnoticed in the seven days leading up to yesterday.

But there were 11 dead bodies, and nine people arrested for murder. The director of the zoo was found with his throat cut. A 50-year-old motorist flagged down for speeding pulled a pistol on police officers and was promptly shot dead. A 21-year-old Austrian tourist was raped, then run over by the four-wheel-drive vehicle of her 25-year-old attacker.

It was a slow week at the airport — the customs officers there uncovered just 32lb of cocaine. There was but one armed robbery, and only four people died in fires.

"Let me tell you — Maastricht is not exactly a big event around here," said the gendarme leaning on the open

MARSEILLES APATHY

The battle for the treaty goes on, but the people of France's great Mediterranean port have other things on their minds.

Sean Mac Carthaigh writes

door of his car on Rue St Ferreol. His partner remembers coming across some people who were handing out leaflets about the referendum earlier in the week. "I think it was Monday. It was that National Front lot again."

There are no clusters of citizens thumbing through the pages of the treaty in the bars of France's biggest port, despite an attempt by Jean-Louis Bianco, the minister for transport, to spur them into discussion. "There is a big debate going on in France because it is a difficult challenge," he tried to explain as he passed through the city to more fertile ground.

Robert Vigouroux, the mayor of Marseilles, has declared himself for the European union treaty, but his constituents express more interest in the plan for a new, American-style, shopping mall. On Monday, M. Vigouroux laid the first stone on the site that will become France's biggest hyperstore, surrounded by

"very European". But he had not read the Maastricht treaty and said that he did not care to. "I do not suppose I will bother voting at all," he said.

Three young heavy-metal enthusiasts listened to his music, and also declared themselves apathetic on the treaty. Only one would vote, and he would vote "no", they said.

The few committed "yes" voters to be found are worried that the weather will deal their side a crushing blow. The Castellais motor cycle competition takes place tomorrow, just a few miles from Marseilles. If the sun continues to shine — and it has not stopped shining all week — the young, potentially pro-Maastricht voters will most likely choose sport over the exercise of their franchise.

The perception of so many Marseillais that Maastricht really will not affect them one way or another illustrates how isolated the city has become from the mainstream of French national politics. And the fact that the political establishment has made such little effort to woo voters among its 800,550 population perhaps shows how far the rot has set in.

200 smaller shops. Even in the city centre, there is little to indicate that the rest of France has embarked on a debate that borders on the all-consuming. Léon Decare, 61, a street musician, plays a violin beneath a poster-covered doorway. But only one of at least a dozen bulls urged voters to the polls; the National Front wanted a "no" vote. M. Decare, originally from Strasbourg, describes himself as

French polls, page 1
Charles Bremner, page 14

they'll vote yes," says an official from Steinfeld. "They look up to Mitterrand because he's the boss." Most shopkeepers appear to be in favour, as do the young. "There'll be no more wars — it's the future," says Marc Grossman, 18.

But tomorrow the town must vote on the future of Europe, and here "Maastricht" is on everyone's lips. Most surveys in France suggest that resistance to the treaty lies in the interior, and that border communities such as Wissembourg, on the German frontier, will vote "yes". But in the streets, nothing is clear. Jean Paule, a gendarme, has not made up his mind. "Does the treaty mean I'll have to go and deal with riots in Germany?" he asks. He had tried to watch a television debate the previous night, but, tired with the far-right rantings of Jean-Marie Le Pen, switched over to the football.

Berthe Bayer, 61, has too long a memory to feel comfortable about moving closer to Germany. "I was a refugee in the war. I still don't know about them," she says, pointing east.

On a café terrace, German visitors enjoy the sun. "I think

Jean Hubert, a teacher and writer, says: "I have to admit that the strength of the mark has me worried." He reflects on Alsace's troubled history with Germany. As for tomorrow, he declares simply: "No one knows what is going to happen".

Town casts a nervy glance at Germany

FROM TOM WALKER IN WISSEMBOURG, ALSACE

ALSACE

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But Christian Gander, local bureau chief for the newspaper *Les Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace*, says many doubting voters are out of town. Forty per cent of the active population work in Germany, where wages are higher than in France. Many of these workers fear they might have to pay German taxes, thus losing their current advantage. M. Gander also says cross-border tensions are high after a number of Germans have bought houses here, a trend that has pushed up property prices.

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0389

Horse artillery bullies drove young officer to breakdown, court told

BY PETER VICTOR

A FORMER army officer claims that he was so bullied by ten colleagues that he suffered a mental breakdown. Alasdair Green is trying to sue the defence ministry, claiming that he was subjected to such abuse while on a short service limited commission with the 7th Royal Horse Artillery that he had a severe psychotic breakdown, the High Court was told yesterday.

Affidavits presented to the court by counsel for Mr Green said that in April and May of 1985, when he was 19, ten officers of the Royal Horse Artillery regiment continually harassed him. Mr Green is also trying to sue those officers.

On one occasion, the court heard, he was dragged along a hallway in his dressing gown, leaving carpet burns on his back. He was taken to the bar where his was stripped while colleagues jeered and laughed. Later, it was said, he was stripped naked and tied to a cannon at the barracks.

While this bullying was going on, it is alleged, Mr Green was forced to drink. In July 1985, Mr Green had a breakdown and suffered schizophrenia-like psychosis and was treated at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Aldershot. In May 1986, he went to Tanzania. While there he suffered another breakdown and was flown home believing that he was on a mission for the SAS regiment. In 1988, he had a breakdown in June and in July had tried to kill himself.

Mr Green, now 26, had planned to serve a one-year commission before studying veterinary medicine at university, but as a result of his condition, he had to defer entry for a year and then did badly in his examinations, opting instead for a zoology course. At present the court heard, he was unemployed. The court was told that on a university entrance form he had been described as a

hardworking student, expected to gain top grade A levels. Ian Ashford-Thorn, for the ministry, and Jonathan Anton Davis, for the ten officers, argued that the case was out of time because more than three years had elapsed since the alleged tort and Mr Green's realisation that he had suffered loss or damage. The ministry and the officers deny the allegations.

Jonathan Marks, for Mr Green, said that he had only realised that the bullying had led to his breakdown in 1988 after discussing it with friends. Mr Green had not believed that his mental condition had been brought on by the attacks because an army psychologist had told him that he had had schizophrenic tendencies from birth.

Piers Ashworth, QC, a deputy high court judge, said that the case could not continue on the basis of affidavits. He adjourned the hearing until oral evidence could be heard.



Great catch: David Gower, 35, the batsman controversially dropped from the England cricket team to tour India, kissing Thorunn Nash, 34, an Icelander, after their wedding at Winchester Cathedral yesterday

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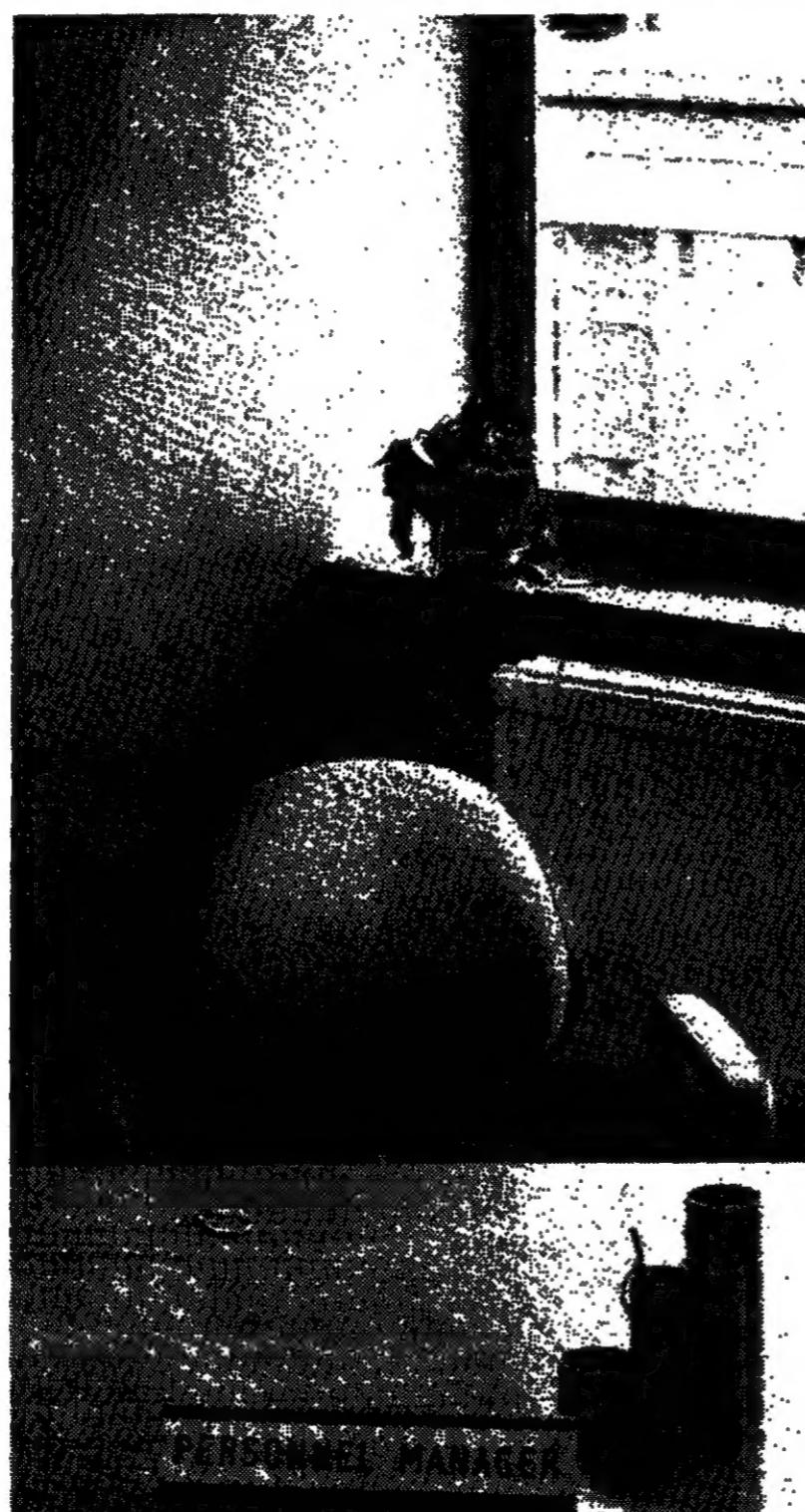
It was the professional

attitude of the staff helping us

find it. Even so, I still had my

doubts about the type of work

they'd be able to find me.



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JOB CENTRE

Patten vows to favour opt-outs

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, last night guaranteed that grant-maintained schools will continue to be funded more generously than those controlled by local authorities.

In a speech to Aldershot Conservatives, Mr Patten cast fresh doubt on the future of some local education authorities and said that opting out represented the best and most secure future for state schools.

The government's white paper on education, published in July, expressed the hope that eventually all schools would opt out. But many are awaiting details of the new funding regime it promised before deciding whether to leave their local authorities.

Mr Patten said that suggestions that schools could be worse off by opting out were "mischievous and unfounded". "I intend to ensure that schools which are accepted for GM status continue to receive funding that recognises their extra responsibilities compared with LEA schools." The future of grant-maintained schools was secure.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Newsboy murder sentences 'sound'

The Home Office and police yesterday refused to comment on reports that a new enquiry into the Carl Bridgewater case has concluded that the convictions of the four jailed men were safe (Stewart Tindall writes). The four were given life imprisonment for murdering the newspaper boy at a Staffordshire farm in 1979. Last year Kenneth Baker, then home secretary, asked Merseyside police to examine new evidence put forward by defence lawyers for Vincent and Michael Hickey, James Robinson, and Patrick Molloy, who is dead.

According to reports yesterday, the police believe that a disputed confession made by Molloy before he died is reliable and have found a new witness to the confession. The views of defence speech pattern experts throwing doubt on the confession have also been challenged. Jim Nichol, solicitor for the three, called for an enquiry into the way details of the report had been leaked.

Storms moving east

The storms that flooded parts of Britain yesterday and made driving hazardous will batter the east today but elsewhere the weather will be brighter with only occasional showers. The Meteorological Office warned motorists in Dorset, Hampshire and the New Forest to expect heavy downpours, thunderstorms and floods. Torrential rain made many roads dangerous and the A37 Ilchester to Bristol road was closed. Large areas of the Mendip Hills in Somerset were flooded when an inch of rain fell in 20 minutes. Homes in the villages of Pyle and Ditchet, Somerset, were flooded when more than 3ft of water poured through streets.

Forecast, page 18

Sikh mother deported

A Sikh mother of seven was deported last night after losing a long fight to stay with her children. Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, ruled that the woman aged 37 must leave in spite of her pleas to be allowed on humanitarian grounds to stay in Nottingham. The family is split because six children were made wards of court in the care of the eldest daughter and cannot be removed without the court's consent. Mr Clarke accused the woman from India of making her children wards to prevent deportation.

£2m musical founders

Grand Hotel, the £2 million musical that reopened the Dominion Theatre two months ago with high hopes of leading a revival from the gloom which had enveloped the West End, is to close next month (Simon Tait writes). Paul Gregg, co-producer of the show, said that the production was not drawing big enough audiences to pay the high costs of running a large scale musical in a 2,000-seat theatre. The show was due to be recast at the end of November, but will close at the end of October instead.

Cows kill woman

A woman was trampled to death yesterday by a herd of cows near her home in the village of Fifield Neville, Dorset. Angela Toller, 55, is believed to have been trying to retrieve her dog from a field. An ambulance was called but Mrs Toller, wife of Tony Toller, an advertising company director, was dead by the time it arrived. A workman near the scene said that a neighbour had tried to help Mrs Toller. "Cows are very defensive when their calves are with them and she said they turned nasty," he said.

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BBC cuts 1,200 jobs and finds £120m more for programmes

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is to cut 1,250 jobs in support services to redirect £120 million of licence fee revenue towards programmes in the next five years, at the same time closing 17 radio studios and 20 outside broadcast units.

The corporation confirmed yesterday that, within 18 months, jobs funded by licence fees will have fallen by 6,000 from the 1986 total to 19,000. It said radio production would be reorganised, with a significant amount of talk programmes moved to the regions to strengthen further the production bases of Manchester, Bristol and Birmingham in their roles as "centres of excellence".

Radio 1's speech-based youth programmes will move to Manchester, following the transfer there last year of Janet Street-Porter's youth tele-

vision programmes. All religious radio output will also move to Manchester, where religious television is produced. Radio drama production and Radio 2 specialist music moves to Birmingham, while Bristol becomes the new site of radio features and natural history programmes.

The radio production shake-up will result in the closure of ten London studios and the move of 48 staff from London to the regions. Two studios in Scotland are to close, with one in Northern Ireland, one in Bristol and three in Wales.

Sir Michael Checkland, the director-general, told department heads and unions yesterday that the restructuring

continued "a clear policy of making the BBC more efficient, putting more money directly into programmes and making more BBC programmes outside the South of England".

A total of £150 million will be cut over the next five years but £30 million of that is needed to make up a shortfall resulting from last year's licence fee settlement. Sir Michael said the remaining £120 million would go into television and radio programmes.

The job losses affect engineers, cleaners, caterers, personnel, workers and other administration staff but will not hit programme-makers or journalists. Sir Michael denied that the cuts would affect the BBC's daycare facilities or training.

The cuts come after a study

conducted by Margaret Salmon, director of personnel, and the accountants Price Waterhouse, which found that the BBC's central administration takes up a quarter of the £1.4 billion income from licence fees — about £30 million.

An internal market starts to work from next April and it had been feared that without large cuts in central costs, resource units such as make-up, scenery, studios and graphics would be priced out of existence, burdened with overheads that commercial rivals did not have to bear. The £150 million saved represents 20 per cent of total BBC support service costs.

Bectu, the 14,000-member broadcasting union, criticised the BBC for cutting "real jobs" and "letting the bureaucrats survive". Despite the cuts, resource units would still not be able to balance the books, Tony Lennon, president of Bectu, said.



Winning smiles: Mary Edwards, 69, from Prestatyn, North Wales, winner of the Grandparent of the Year award, with her granddaughter Michelle Williams, 24, at a ceremony at the Sheraton Park Hotel, central London, yesterday. The award was sponsored by Cadbury's and Age Concern

Armed men kidnap bank staff

By KERRY GILL

BANKS offered a £10,000 reward yesterday for information leading to the capture of armed raiders who held up and kidnapped two female staff on a single-track road.

The women had been taking cash to another bank by private car from the village of Lochgoilhead in the western Highlands, where the Bank of Scotland offers a part-time service in a hall. A van drew up in front of their car on the B839, near Hell's Glen, as another van blocked their escape.

Three men wearing balaclavas forced them to leave their car and enter the van while they stole a "substantial" amount of cash. They were then driven 50 miles over the Rest and Be Thankful pass, around Loch Long and then to Loch Lomond where they were dumped.

The women were said to have suffered extreme shock. They have been offered counselling by the bank. A police spokesman said all three vehicles must have been travelling in convoy at some time after the robbery. Police have appealed for witnesses.



Checkland: resources moved to regions

Councils try to curb police pay

By STEWART TENDERL CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL authorities are proposing a reform of police pay and working practices that would save £100 million a year on the national police budget and end fixed annual rises.

The authorities want a cut in Home Office powers over local policing and an end to Whitehall control of force manpower levels. The proposals would mean that police authorities could set the salaries of chief constables. There could also be merit payments, and salaries could be attuned to an officer's responsibilities.

The proposals are in evidence being prepared by the authorities for submission to the Sheehy enquiry, set up by Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary. They are in a paper leaked to this week's *Police Review* magazine.

Yesterday, local government sources confirmed details in the magazine that would amount to a wholesale change of the pay and conditions in operation since the 1978 Edmund-Davies report. The paper recommends a new formula that could mean negotiated annual rises rather than a fixed rise under the present system. The proposals will almost certainly provoke a sharp response from police ranks, who were given a 6.5 per cent rise this week.

The local authorities recognise that the police deserve some kind of automatic rise because they are forbidden to strike. But it is felt that their pay has risen far above levels expected by Edmund-Davies.

Scientists find clue to cancer

By JEREMY LAURANCE HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS are close to identifying a gene for breast cancer that could lead to the development of improved treatments for the disease.

An international consortium of researchers has narrowed down the search for the gene to a tiny area of chromosome 17. Once identified, a blood test will be developed to tell which women are at higher risk.

Dr Michael Steel, assistant director of the Medical Research Council's human genetics unit in Edinburgh, who is leading the British research, said: "We are so close to the gene and there are so many groups working on it that I would be very surprised if it is not identified within two years."

About 250,000 women in Britain have a genetic predisposition to the disease. But the researchers believe that the gene is implicated in all breast cancer. In those who start life with a normal version of the gene, they believe it suffers damage that leads to the development of the disease.

The blood test will help women who have a mother or sister with the disease to tell whether they have inherited a mutated form of the gene, putting them at high risk.

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Lawyer says Mellor buried his political head in holiday sand

By TIM JONES

DAVID Mellor, the heritage secretary, was yesterday accused of behaving "like an ostrich" by taking a holiday in Marbella with the daughter of a prominent member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation during the Gulf crisis.

George Carman, QC, told a High court jury: "Marbella has sand, sea and sunshine and if a politician goes there and, in the honest view of some, behaves like an ostrich and puts his head in the sand and thereby exposes his thinking parts, it may be a newspaper is entitled to say so."

He said that Mr Mellor's holiday was "politically insensitive and possibly insulting to the families of British citizens."

Mrs Bauwens, 31, whose father, Jaweed al-Ghussein, is also chairman of the Palestine National Fund, which finances the PLO, claims an article published in *The People* in September 1990 made her out to be a "social leper" not fit to be seen in decent company.

The newspaper denies libel, claiming its report was justified and fair comment on the political wisdom of Mr Mellor.

Mr Carman said: "When the clouds of war gather around the country and the nation takes the strain, you expect from a minister of the Crown undivided, unambiguous

loyalty in conduct and never for a minister to put across anything associated with the friend of an enemy."

The month-long holiday in a six-bedroom, six-bathroom villa, which Mr and Mrs Mellor and their children began one day before Iraq invaded Kuwait, was lavish.

"She paid for it and she paid for the tickets and the rent." The minister had accepted hospitality from a woman "whose father was on the committee of the PLO which was supporting Saddam Hussein". Mr Carman added: "At a time when British lives were in jeopardy, when Saddam had become the enemy of the realm, Mr Mellor should have seen the red light."

"He should have warned himself against the danger of being seen to be taking the hospitality of someone who might be seen as a friend of the enemy. That is the position of the most indelicate kind into which Mr Mellor put himself."

There was an American saying that there was no such thing as a free lunch. "Mr Mellor may have had that saying in mind when he took the hospitality he did. The scale of hospitality revealed by Mrs Bauwens might be seen reasonably to put Mr Mellor in a position of indebtedness."

Mr Mellor had been subpoenaed to appear but Mr

Carman did not call him. He said that, if he had called Mr Mellor to give evidence, he would not have been able to cross-examine him.

As Mr Carman addressed the crowded court, Mr Mellor's wife Judith, sitting behind him in a royal blue suit, listened intently.

Mr Carman said that earlier in the week there had been the "spectacle" of Mr Mellor's "no doubt kind and friendly wife" attending the court room and going out during the lunch break in front of the television cameras with her armed linked with Mrs Bauwens — "and all beautifully reproduced on television screens for you."

"Am I being unfair or unduly cynical in saying that ministers of the Crown are not averse to public relations exercises?"

He claimed the article was within the public interest and called into question Mr Mellor's political wisdom. It had been impossible to report the holiday and hospitality taken without mentioning that Mrs Bauwens provided it.

Mr Richard Harley, QC, for Mrs Bauwens, said: "This article is a piece of idle talk, a piece of gossip, and does not warrant being elevated into any matter of great public importance."

The hearing continues on Monday.



Ring of confidence: head girls from private schools help each other to conquer one of the more rigorous activities at their conference

Head girls rise to the challenge of derring-do

THE playing fields of England rang with shrieks, giggles and cries of "gosh!" yesterday.

More than 100 head girls and deputies from private schools ran blindfold through giant croquet hoops.

leapt across "snake infested" pits and formed makeshift stilt bands with the help of china cups, plastic chairs and metal dustbins (Julia Lewellen Smith writes).

Jill Clough, head of the Royal Naval School in

Haslemere, Surrey, and host and organiser of the third head girls' conference, said: "These girls have made it to the top of their school, now we want to help them get to the top of their careers."

As the girls pushed each

other through tyres suspended 10ft above the ground from trees, one girl fell hard on her head and retired in tears. "Never mind, we are fully insured," Dr Clough said.

Most of the girls wanted to

go to university to read law or medicine, although Rhian Dobell, of St Catherine's School, Bramley, Surrey, said: "Quite a lot of people from private schools are quite happy to find a rich husband."

British balloon team slips back

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

FIVE British-built balloons were jostling for position south of Newfoundland yesterday on the third day of a 3,000-mile transatlantic race.

In the lead were the Dutch, Belgian and American teams. The British team of Don Cameron and Rob Bayly having slipped from second place to fourth after trying to pick up speed and gain the lead by climbing to a higher altitude. Organisers at the event's tracking station in Rotterdam said that the manoeuvre appeared to pay off but then the British pair were forced off course, leaving them ahead only of the Germans.

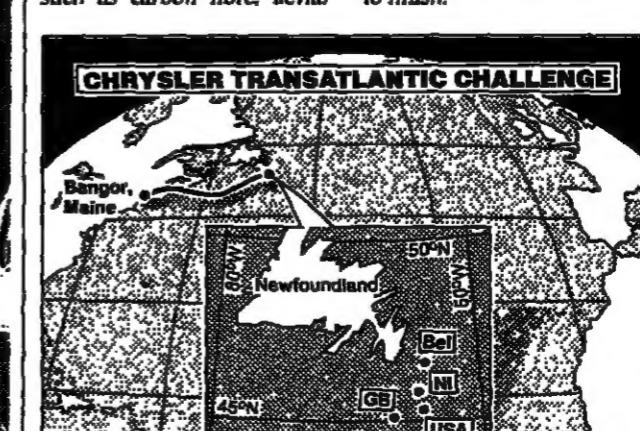
The balloons, kept aloft by helium during the day and by propane-provided hot air at night, have been designed and built by Cameron Balloons of Bristol, the company founded by the 53-year-old British team captain.

Blethyn Richards, a spokesman for the event, said that the lightweight craft had been made with modern materials, such as carbon fibre, kevlar,

and rubber impregnated nylon. They are also bristling with communications technology rivaling that used in the latest jumbo jets. The teams can pinpoint their locations to within a few metres from a string of US navigation satellites.

The 90ft balloons have terminals linked to another group of satellites operated by the International Maritime Satellite organisation. These provide instant data communications with ground stations. Oxygen breathing systems allow the teams to soar up to 20,000 feet to take advantage of favourable wind streams. "They also have weather fax," Mr Richards said. "Not even 747 series 400 have weather fax."

Late yesterday the balloons, which were launched from Bangor, Maine, on Wednesday, were reaching average speeds of up to 30mph. Mr Richards said the organisers thought that the race might take another six or seven days to finish.



Jews' body freezes pensions

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A REPORT that outlines a financial crisis in orthodox Anglo-Jewry's central body gives warning that there might be insufficient funds to buy members. A freeze on pensions for the first time in ten years has been imposed after the United Synagogue borrowed from its own pension fund.

The financial difficulties of the synagogue are at the core of the problems disclosed yesterday in a 30-page report by Stanley Kalms, founder and chairman of the Dixons Group.

Sidney Frosh, president of the synagogue, who commissioned the report, will resign with the eight other honorary officers. The nine men, equivalent to a board of directors and who make policy decisions, are resigning eight months early to allow re-elections. Some may stand for re-election but Mr Frosh, who headed the committee that elected the new chief rabbi, said last night he had completed the

maximum of two three-year terms of office allowed.

Mr Frosh, who commissioned the report by Mr Kalms, said the review had failed sufficiently to take into account a recent mission statement calling for the recruitment of more people to orthodoxy. Mr Frosh said: "It is a very good business report but it lacks a soul. I agree with the majority of its recommendations but I am certain that when they come to be implemented they may take a rather different form."

The synagogue, which is at the heart of Anglo-Jewry, is moving towards insolvency. Mr Kalms says in his report, "It outlines a scenario in which each male member could be asked to pay a levy of at least £450 to settle debts of nearly £9 million by the end of this year. In reality, it says, a much higher levy would be needed because many would be unable or unwilling to pay. Mr Kalms' report was written

to bring the difficulties into the open.

Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi and religious head of the synagogue, said the organisation must not hide from the need to change.

Mr Kalms estimates that the bank is no longer secured on its loans of £7.75 million. A cash projection shows that bank facilities are likely to be breached later this year if known commitments are honoured.

The organisation has borrowed also from the Funeral Expenses Scheme, which provides free burials for the member and his dependants. The scheme showed its first deficit in 1991.

The report says the synagogue's pension fund trustees have failed to enhance and protect the value of the fund. While it was technically legal to borrow from it, Mr Kalms found no reason to justify this course. The synagogue was founded in 1870.

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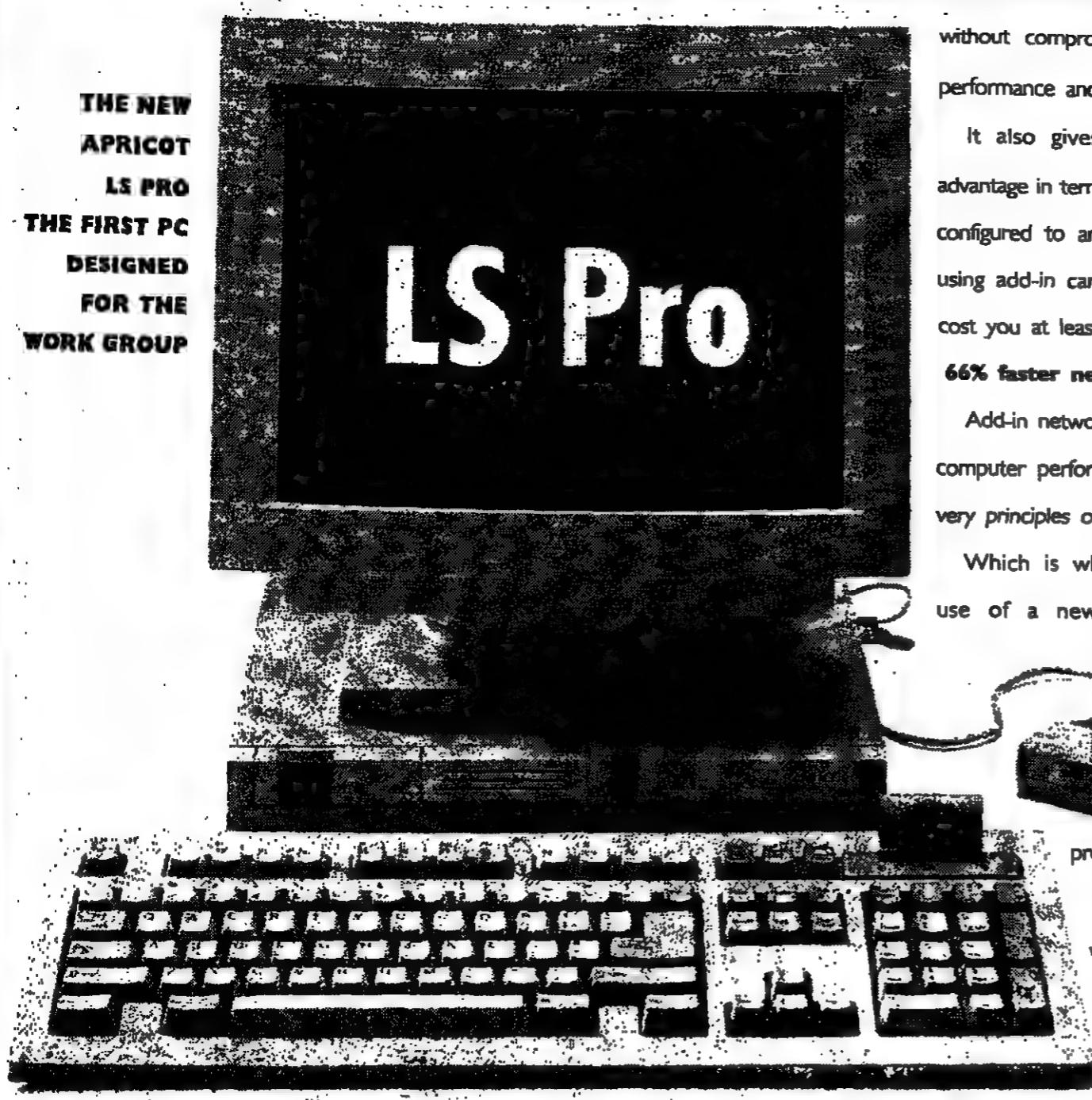
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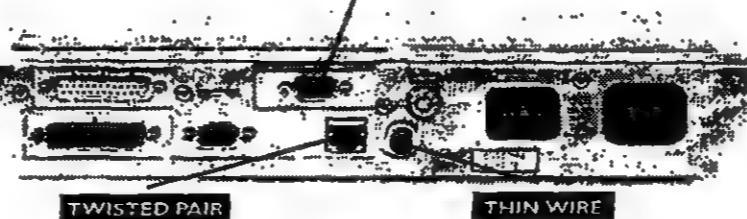
Intel which sits right next to the main processor.

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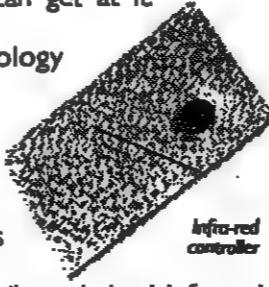


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MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC

ANC cadres bury Bisho martyrs in the land of Steve Biko

YESTERDAY they buried a man who was standing four yards from me 12 days ago. He stood one minute at the barbed wire across the road leading to Bisho. The next minute he was dead, his head and neck shattered by a bullet, with a man, not his friend or anyone he knew, but a man who was beside him, holding his hand and calling: "Don't stop now. Keep marching, keep on to Bisho."

Twenty-six others, all of whom died in a five-minute fusillade, were buried with him. A row of graves was dug into the gritty earth on a hillside across the railway tracks from the neat white town they call "King". It is one of the few former colonial outposts which keeps a statue of Queen Victoria in the main

square, but the black "location" where the dead were buried savours a different history. The road near the graveyard is called Biko Road. Steve Bantu Biko, the leader of the Black Consciousness movement, who was beaten to death in a police cell, is buried a quarter of a mile away. His mother lives in Ginsburg township above the graveyard. His widow, a nursing sister, received the injured from the massacre at King William's Town hospital.

There is a burnt-out building overlooking the burial ground. Graffiti says: "Fighters arise and seize the time for a socialist Azania."

At the Victoria ground, the sports stadium, where despite the throng, the cricket square was miraculously preserved

Clerics rubbed shoulders with Marxists crying 'Viva Jesus' at the funeral in King William's Town of 27 victims of the Ciskei killings. Michael Hamlyn writes

for the season which starts in a fortnight, 40,000 mourners gathered in temperatures of 95°F. Speaker after speaker urged them to "pick up the spear", to avenge the deaths. But the African National Congress officially seemed to be doing its best to play down the drama. It did not send Nelson Mandela, the president, nor Cyril Ramaphosa, the secretary-general, to address the crowd. Walter Sisulu, the deputy president, was the senior figure.

Chris Hani, general secre-

tary of the Communist party, was on hand. So was Ronnie Kasrils, chief of intelligence for Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing. They left the rush on the Ciskei defence force, sparking the massacre, when 70,000 demonstrators marched to show their opposition to Brigadier Joshua "Dupa" Gqozo, the puppet leader of the nominally independent black homeland.

The main event yesterday was in the hands of the church, however, and even Marxists such as Mr Kasrils

more peace observers than you could shake a knobkerrie at.

The team of 50 peace monitors proposed by the United Nations is gradually arriving in South Africa, and this was their first public outing. They were accompanied by South African members of the peace secretariat.

The coffins, draped in ANC flags and with garlands of yellow flowers, stood in the baking heat surrounded by weeping mourners, grieving families, and a brass band from St John's Apostolic Church in the nearby town of Mdantsane.

The main speech came from Emilio Castro, from the World Council of Churches, who announced that he would send relays of clergy to South Africa to act as additional

peace monitors from the beginning of next month.

But the main cheer of the day was reserved for Major General Bantu Holomisa, the military dictator of the neighbouring black homeland of Transkei. Unlike Brig Gqozo, Maj Gen Holomisa has buried his links with the ANC. He is their favourite uniformed autocrat, and the crowd was happy to reinforce that yesterday, greeting him like a film star.

After calling for a regional *indaba*, or grand council, to discuss the way forward for the homelands, he had some hard words for Roelf Meyer, the Pretoria minister for constitutional development. Mr Meyer had called for the government to take control of the homelands' armed forces.

Maj Gen Holomisa would have none of it. "I have got this message," he said among wild cheers. "The present administration of Transkei will not be tampered with until an interim government is in place."

In Bisho, Brig Gqozo was no less defiant. "If they [Pretoria] think they can just thrust things down our throats we will resist until the last of us here is dead," he said.

● Johannesburg: President de Clerk told the congress of the National party of the Transvaal that the ANC's campaign of disruptive mass action was eating away like a cancer at the welfare of all South Africans. For the first time, he also accused the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party of being involved in fomenting violence.

China accuses Hong Kong of trickery over airport finance

BRITAIN and China are heading into a fresh round of dispute over the new Hong Kong airport after Peking signalled its dislike of new costing proposals put forward by the colonial government. These were based partly on Chinese suggestions.

Accusing the government of trickery and attempting to steal money which should belong to the people of Hong Kong after 1997, pro-Peking newspapers denied stock market hopes that China would accept the latest plan.

The Hong Kong government proposed injecting a further HK\$40 billion (£2.9 billion) into the airport and railway link as a means of meeting Chinese concerns that the project will leave the government of the new special autonomous region short of funds after the Chinese takeover. The money for the new proposal would be raised by selling land to the private sector. The Chinese government wants more cash from current government revenues put into the airport project.

"This so-called counter-proposal is disappointing and purely a numerical trick," said the daily *Wen Wei Po*. China has yet to respond officially but another Peking mouthpiece, *Ta Kung Pao*, in effect rejected the proposal. "In any respect it could hardly be accepted and agreed to by the Chinese side

Attacks on the colony's airport proposals have given rise to suggestions that China wants to take the credit for the finished project, writes David Waits, diplomatic correspondent



Li signed agreement on airport last year

and the people of Hong Kong."

"It's really difficult to see what they want," said a Hong Kong source in London. "They keep on muddying the waters by raising other political issues. It seems as though they are using the airport as a lever for other matters."

Others believe that Peking is intent on spinning out the project so that it is completed after the takeover so that China can take the credit for it. Others in Hong Kong believe that is what should be done anyway to reduce the cost of a project which critics call a Ford for the price of a Rolls-Royce.

The project, which includes two cross-harbour tunnels, two suspension bridges and land reclamation as well as the airport, has been a constant

source of friction between Britain and China since it was announced in 1989. John Major and Li Peng, his Chinese counterpart, signed an agreement calling for the airport to open by the time of the handover on June 30, 1997. It is now a year since the agreement and the stalemate over financing has yet to be broken. The new dispute is now raising questions as to whether it will be possible to finish the project on time.

John Mulcahy, regional research director at Peregrine Brokerage, said in an interview with Reuter, that the extra equity would come from selling land along the railway route. "I think it's an interesting proposition and it certainly leaves ground for negotiation and compromise

Diary, page 14

and nature trails through spectacular mountain scenery which ranges from lowland jungle, drier forests, cloud forests, mountain forests and culminating in the bare craggy majestic peak of Mount Kinabalu, which at 13,000 feet is the highest mountain in South East Asia. Those who remain on board may explore the coastline and city, including the rubber and palm plantations, rice paddies and the Kampong Air floating villages.

DAY 10 Kota Kinabalu Sail in the evening.

DAY 11 and 12 At sea

DAY 13 Saigon Enter the Mekong at 0700 hours and sail up the river to Saigon, arriving in the late morning. Dividing into small groups we will visit the Presidential Palace, the Cholon district, markets and a Buddhist centre. Moor overnight in Saigon.

DAY 14 Saigon Morning visit to the tunnels of Cu Chi which were used by the Vietnamese during the Vietnamese conflict and once spread over an area of 200 miles.

DAY 15 and 16 At sea

DAY 17 Bangkok Arrive in the morning, disembark and drive to the Hilton for a night's stay (a further 3 night extension at the Hilton

is available for £95 per person in a twin room, £100 in a single). Our representative can arrange excursions in and around Bangkok.

DAY 18 Bangkok-London Day free in Bangkok until evening departure by British Airways to London.

DAY 19 Return to London (Heathrow)

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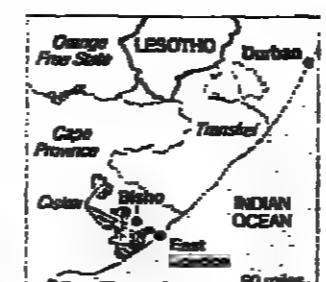
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were seen to cry "Viva Jesus" at appropriate moments. Ninety-three clerics attended, from the purple-clad Roman Catholic bishop, who delivered a message of condolence from the Pope, to the charismatic Ray McCauley, with long hair and a tie loud enough to match his bellow. There were also present

the main speech came from

Exasperated Perot threatens US election comeback

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ARIZONA yesterday became the fifth and final state to place Ross Perot on the ballot for November's presidential election, and the enigmatic Texas billionaire threatened to re-enter the race to force President Bush and Bill Clinton to address America's huge economic problems.

Since his abrupt withdrawal nine weeks ago, Mr Perot has spent \$3 million (£1.7 million) getting his name on every ballot and keeping offices open in every state. He has published a best-selling book detailing an austere economic manifesto.

Perot still gives him double-digit support even without campaigning. His re-entry would inject fresh confusion into this most turbulent of elections.

Mr Perot would stand no chance of winning, but experts said that his candidature could boost the president's chances by splitting the anti-Bush vote, particularly in California. However, conceivably it could also hand Texas to the Democrat.

Over the past week, Mr Perot has emitted a series of conflicting signals about his intentions. On Thursday, he said that his re-entry was as likely as his "jumping over a tall building in a single bound". But yesterday he said that he had been told he could broadcast advertisements on America's economic problems only if he were a candidate. He continued: "I may be the first guy in history that had to decide he was a candidate so he could buy television time."

He also repeated that his overriding aim was to force Mr Bush and Mr Clinton to address America's huge national debt. If they did not, "there will be an organised process where the 50 state coordinators come together, decide what we need to do". Whatever their recommendation was, "we will do it".

Mr Perot's core supporters have formed a nationwide organisation called "United We Stand America" and they are now pressing him to re-enter the election contest, recalling his original promise six months ago to stand for president if the people put him on all 50 state ballots.

Last May, Mr Perot, capitalising on acute public disenchantment with politicians, actually led in the polls, but the Republicans eroded his support by painting him as a temperamental tyrant who employed private detectives to snout on adversaries.

He never formally declared, but nevertheless he pulled out of the race during July's Democratic convention, saying that he did not want to be just a "spoiler". He was reported to have known that two new

last-minute ballot challenges had been suspended after an American cargo plane was fired at in flight after unloading supplies, the Pentagon said. Nobody was injured. (Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Congress

fraud

admitted

Washington: The former chief of staff of the House of Representatives post office has pleaded guilty to embezzlement and misuse of government funds in a criminal investigation that could involve members of Congress.

Joanna O'Rourke, 52, admitted she used a government express mail account to send personal items for herself and for the office of an unnamed congressman. On the count of misuse of government funds, she is charged with receiving a personal loan of \$1,500 (£860) from post office funds. She was freed without bail until sentencing on December 9. (AP)

Israeli arrest

Jerusalem: Israeli security forces, after a 16-year hunt, have arrested Ahmad Sleiman Katash. They say that he is the leader in the occupied territories of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. (AP)

Flights halted

Washington: Relief flights to the Somali city of Belet Huen have been suspended after an American cargo plane was fired at in flight after unloading supplies, the Pentagon said. Nobody was injured. (Reuters)

Land demand

Miami: Guerrilla leaders in El Salvador are demanding large areas of land as a condition of disarming, threatening a seven-month old peace plan arranged by the United Nations.

Roh pulls out

Seoul: President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea said he would resign from the ruling Democratic Liberal party, ceding to an opposition demand that he remain neutral during this year's elections for his successor. (Reuters)

Sex hearing

Boston: A psychiatrist accused of having sex with a patient who later committed suicide has given up her medical licence. But a medical board said her disciplinary case would go ahead next week. She denies the allegation. (AP)

Pakistan army halts threat of flooding

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN GUDDU

THE Indus river pounded into Pakistan's Sind province yesterday at ten times its normal volume, testing to the limits two vital barriers that control the irrigation of millions of acres of farmland.

The military has turned out to be the hero of the piece, showing again how much Pakistan depends on the armed forces in times of crisis. The corps of engineers mobilised all its resources to save the irrigation barriers while civilian agencies dithered and squabbled.

The army has deployed patrols to ensure embankments beside the Indus do not collapse, and will bolster weak spots with sandbags.

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high-school students (or perhaps their mothers) were eager for their new spare time to be spent on extra study. Others wondered if they would be penalised for not attending the "organised fun" events at school and whether to wear uniform. At one school in Mie prefecture, "organised fun" turned out to be four back-breaking hours of weeding gardens; at another, it was a series of lectures on the national tax system and robot technology.

Many parents have welcomed the easing of working hours, but others are not altogether approving. Japan's *ayukita mammas* — the ambitious "education mamas" who chart their own success by the ability of their children to pass difficult examinations for entry into prestige schools — regard anything less than a six-day, 35-hour week with extra daily cramming classes as slackening.

In an effort to reduce the pressure on overworked students and give them a chance to move on from rote

According to a poll in the *Yomiuri* newspaper, most

Class of '92 learns to weed

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

"A DAY off? But what am I supposed to do?" wailed Sumiko, 13, who had risen as usual at 6.30 in preparation for another Saturday at her school desk.

Eighteen million schoolchildren were puzzling nervously over this same question on Saturday, the first time in 12 years that Japan's schools have given their charges the day off. For all the thousands of hours they devote to trigonometry and memorising Central American rainfall statistics, Japan's children have not learnt how to cope with an unexpected holiday.

In an effort to reduce the pressure on overworked students and give them a chance to move on from rote

learning to creative thinking, schools will offer one Saturday off a month as the first step towards implementing a regular five-day week sometime towards the millennium.

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According to a poll in the *Yomiuri* newspaper, most



Take a good look. Don't ever say "I didn't know it was happening."

Suppose you're at a dinner party and the person next to you says they're a member of Amnesty.

You ask her, or him: 'Why should anyone join Amnesty?'

What sort of answer do you expect?

Surely, a polite one. One that might contain words like 'human rights', 'freedom', 'dignity'.

But it's an inadequate answer. No-one joins Amnesty because they're enamoured of fine-sounding words.

A clearer reply might be if the person turned and, without warning, punched you violently in the face.

Imagine your pain, fear and confusion multiplied a hundredfold, and you'll begin to realise what thousands of people are suffering, every hour of every day.

The reason you join Amnesty is not words, but pain.

It's the pain of children like 16 year old Sevci Akinci, literally barbecued alive by Turkish soldiers who came to his village looking for guns which they didn't find.

It's the tears of 17 year old Ravi Sundaralingam, tortured by Indian troops in Sri Lanka - tied upside down with a fire lit beneath his head and

electrodes sparking at his genitals.

It's the anguish of Angelica Mendoza de Ascarza, whose teenage son was taken from home by the security forces in Peru, never to be heard from again. He joined the hundreds who have simply "disappeared".

It's the terror of a 23 year old Tibetan nun, raped by Chinese soldiers with an electric cattle prod.

It's the agony of children like Walter Villatoro and Salvador Sandoval, street children in Guatemala City, whose eyes were burned out by police cigars, their tongues ripped from their heads with pliers.

Maybe you simply don't realise that such vile things go on.

But for two years now, we have been running appeals in this newspaper. With one exception, all of these cases were mentioned in previous appeals.

Didn't you see them? Didn't you care? Or did you think that joining us would make no difference?

Take a good look at the picture above, of Bosnian muslims in a Serbian-run prison camp.

It is horribly reminiscent of pictures

taken fifty years ago, but was shot within the last few weeks.

Why, the Bosnian Ambassador to the United Nations demanded a month ago - was the UN silent about the atrocities alleged to be taking place in these camps?

The UN replied that it couldn't comment until the facts about the "death camps" had been confirmed.

Yet certain facts were already known.

In March 1992, Amnesty published a report containing six densely-packed pages about the horrors of other camps run by the JNA and Serbian paramilitaries in Croatia.

The following eye-witness accounts were published six months ago.

"The hallmark of life in the camp was the regular, daily and systematic ill-treatment of prisoners. The soldiers would come in drunk at night and force the prisoners to stand to attention and sing all night or they would order them to lie down and cover their heads and proceed to call out their names and beat them."

"We slept on the bare stone floor, in four rows, lying on a little straw, with only one blanket to cover ourselves. The temperature near the door was close to zero. In three months prisoners were allowed to bathe only once and people slept for a month or two without taking off their boots."

"Some prisoners were tied naked to posts and then beaten so brutally they had post-traumatic delirium afterwards..."

"Ivan Kunac was the victim of a particularly savage beating. On the second day, he was found drenched and covered in vomit . . . The official (military) doctor said that he was not

I wish to be a member of Amnesty International. I enclose £15 Individual £20 Family £6 OAP £6 Student, Under 18, Claimant I wish to donate £250 £100 £50 £25 £10 Other I enter my Access, Visa, Mastercard No. Card expiry date

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seriously ill and that she would bring some medicine the following day. The next day Ivan Kunac was dead."

(Excerpts from Amnesty March 22nd 1992 report on the former Yugoslavia).

We named the camps, gave their locations and precise descriptions.

But the silence of the world's political leaders is not very surprising. According to Amnesty's 1992 Annual Report, human rights were violated in 142 countries.

The sickened journalist writing in the Daily Mail got it right when he said that so long as reports about death camps lie on desks in Ministries, nothing gets done.

But when the TV cameras arrive, and the public see the revolting pictures, then suddenly the airwaves are full of politicians clamouring for action.

Government's daren't ignore you. Your anger forces them into action.

We saw it last year with the Kurdish refugees in the mountains - remember the outrage when George Bush went fishing? - and we're seeing it again with Bosnia and Somalia.

If the news stories upset you, don't just weep. For God's sake get angry.

If enough of us around the world make our outrage heard and felt, governments will have to listen.

Let's make our message clear: we don't give a damn what your politics are. We just want governments to stop killing and torturing people.

Here in Britain, we have about 100,000 members. Think what a million of us could do!

A million. Is that so farfetched? You're reading this in the Guardian, the Times, the Independent or the Observer. As such, you're one of about 3 million people who have regularly seen our appeals.

We've told you about children killed by chemical bombs; the woman whose husband was crucified and whose 12 year old sister was raped to death; street children gunned down by death squads; students crushed under tanks; people whose loved ones have disappeared forever.

3 million of you reading this, yet to date we've managed to attract just 30,000 new members.

We can't believe that only 1 in 100 of you care. It must mean we're not telling our story well enough.

The fine words we honour don't serve us. In fact they subvert our message. They make it philosophical when it's about real pain.

Words fail us. As T.S. Eliot said, they slip and slide beneath the strain.

Well meaning advertisements like this one can never begin to succeed.

Please don't let our lack of writing skill prevent you from doing one of the best things you'll ever do.

Amnesty membership costs only £15. Please will you be one of our million?

Clifford Longley

Who's to blame for the free-thinking thug?

The young working class male who feels no need to become a "responsible adult in a functioning community" has emerged as the very emblem of the post-Christian world. He has rid himself of all obligations to others and become the ultimate free individual. So argues a new analysis of the state of Britain published this week, which turns upon the question whether the young man is to be applauded, excused or blamed.

It is not simply what he does to the passing girlfriend he impregnates, the tower block he vandals or the car he steals that gives the measure of his symbolic significance. The appearance of this creature as a sociological archetype has also vandalled the traditional divide in politics between left and right. His rise is as deplorable to many on the one wing as is the rise of the other, and for similar reasons. But others on the left or right are not bothered. And in the difference between these two judgments (or the one judgment and other refusal to judge) lies a new political and moral argument.

Appropriately, this new approach to politics is sponsored by the Institute of Economic Affairs, usually associated with the free-market right wing in British politics. It is written, however, by two academics who call themselves ethical socialists, Norman Dennis and George Erdos, and introduced by Professor A.H. Halsey, the very doyen of ethical socialism.

To find these three comfortably together in an IEA bed along with David Green, director of the IEA's health and welfare unit, is a pleasing novelty. But perhaps not for long. The argument of *Families Without Fatherhood* (IEA £7.95) is that ethics now transcends ideology. It is not left wing or right wing to regard the young man in question as feckless and irresponsible. What is to be deplored, say the authors, is any effort, on the one hand, to make excuses for his behaviour by blaming his deprived environment; or on the other, to concede his freedom to behave that way in the name of "libertarianism".

Instead of two categories of political attitude there now have to be four (at least until a realignment is complete, when only the two new ones would remain). The divide on the left, the authors of the IEA study argue, is between the "ethical socialists" and "egoistic socialists". The former believe fervently in moral responsibility. They uphold the ethos of the "respectable working class" of old, based on solid family life, devotion of parents to their children, hard work, honesty, and consideration for neighbours.

They are opposed by the egoistic socialists, who believe that "individuals may live whatever lifestyles they choose and if things go wrong the state should pick up the pieces".

In this way the Labour party has ceased to reflect working class respectability, and been captured by middle class intellectuals who believe in an "absolute laissez-faire" in personal lifestyle. Confronted by the feckless young man they blame society for creating an underclass, not the man himself for rejecting all moral constraints. For they have already rejected such constraints in their own lives, under the banner "Thou shalt not commit a value judgment".

It is Green himself who turns the Dennis-Erdos critique onto the right and finds their matching pattern. The egoistic capitalists, whom he identifies as "libertarians", believe people should do as they wish. Some libertarians — perhaps they ought to be called right-wing anarchists — believe that without outside interference human existence would settle down to a natural harmony. Other libertarians find the concept of "guilt" as objectionable as all forms of state coercion. Though they may inhibit the Conservative party, they are clearly at one with the intellectuals who are accused of betraying the "respectable" values of the old Labour party.

The ethical capitalists, like the ethical socialists, regard the heart of a free society, in line with Friedrich Hayek or Michael Novak, as "personal responsibility guided by conscience". They stress an "energetic vital private moral order built on strong families and vigorous voluntary associations". This sounds very like the cohesive, chapel-going mill towns and mining villages of Labour's history. Thus a new conservative moral-political position has been defined which straddles left and right, against an equal and opposite libertarian consensus which also crosses the old faultlines of politics. And at its heart is not an economic disagreement at all but a moral and spiritual one.

With no one in charge, the Green party's internecine fulminations came as no surprise to Bernard Levin

Have you ever noticed that, in the field of non-governmental organisations, when things go wrong the recriminations are always in inverse ratio to the professed peaceability of the body in question? Thus, if there was a break-up of a club for sumo wrestlers they would shake hands genuinely as they went their different ways, while if the outfit was, say, the Society for the Protection of Woolly Caterpillars, the dissolution of the group would be marked by the foulest abuse, accusations of the most flagitious nature and probably a few stabbings.

Which, roughly, is the story of the Green party and its lamentable fate. Far be it from me to apportion blame among the rival groups (157 when last counted), much less offer to mediate; I would rather stand between the Devil and his Damn. But as an outsider who has spent many years studying the human race, I think I can promise to make things worse for all the warring factions.

It isn't going to be difficult.

Here, for instance, is a billet-doux from Mrs Sara Parkin, the deposed Head Green: "... the Green party, as it is now, only provides its detractors with regular proof of its unfitness to contribute to the rapidly evolving green debate". She

You need a heavy at the top

follows that by saying that her reforms were frustrated by "a small but determined minority". But hitherto she only rolling up her sleeves now she drops the playful bantering and speaks from the heart, saying "The limited time of elected people is deliberately forced away from their proper work to respond to negative internal manoeuvres", and "An atmosphere of chronic mistrust is actively encouraged through a constant diet of rumour and uncorroborated accusations".

Amagiri! But she wasn't getting things all her own way; from the opposition, Mr Mallon, Baker says of the goddess with feet of clay that "Just because... she looks good on television does not mean she can be allowed to run the party badly", and that what she is doing now is typical of her "destructive behaviour".

Back comes to member in the Parkin camp to denounce Mr Baker as "irresponsible and not politically competent to speak for the party". There are no signs of wits yet, possibly the Green party, or, as we must now say, Green parties, with reductions for more than a dozen will not serve wits except on recycled

paper. And another thing: it is a long-standing tradition in the break-up of organisations devoted to brotherly and sisterly love, for one of the members, when the upsurge is at its height, to make off with the funds, assuming they have any. I counsel the Green party's treasurer if, that is, they were willing to have such a worldly figure at all to go through the books at once, and not be surprised if there is a substantial shortfall in the hard-earned pennies of the faithful.

But I didn't come here today to jeer: I want to give advice. The Green party prided itself on not having a Leader, a President, a Chief Executive: they wanted to live like the gardeners in Richard the Second:

Cut off the heads of too fast growing sprays,
That look too lofty in our commonwealth:

All must be even in our government...

And I tell them that it cannot be done. If people are to come together for a common purpose, someone — someone — must be in charge. It is all very well to say that Mrs Parkin was the "chair", but that meant little more than

spokeswoman. There has to be someone who can give orders, not sweet-scented requests, with the authority to ensure that the orders will be obeyed. The first time a member of such an organisation says that he will not obey because it would be contrary to his understanding of the cause, he must be sacked instantly, brutally and with no hope of

reconciliation in saying "I am going to make the world perfect", but only the most stony-hearted bystander would point out that millions have tried it before and failed. We do not need to add, though the sterner ones among us probably will, that the great perfectionist ideologies have among them murdered more human beings than there are grains of sand on the seashore, without even achieving perfection for one division of one amoeba.

We are not all equal. Einstein was cleverer than I am: he, for instance, could play the violin, whereas I cannot. Nor, indeed, is it likely that I could run a hundred yards faster than Mr Linford Christie does. I mourn these inadequacies, but I have come to terms with them. And perhaps that facing of reality is built into our deepest selves, to save us being disappointed, if not indeed humiliated. If so, it is possible that those who think that they, as individuals, can carry out a wonderful heavenly plan if only other people wouldn't get in the way, are born without that vital bit of inward communication, as a colour-blind person is born without the gene that the more fortunate of us have. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the Green party's break-up, Mrs Parkin is well out of it.

The world is imperfect; even the greatest optimist would agree. Unfortunately, the optimists insist that it can be made perfect; it is but a step further to saying "And I am going to make it perfect". Every groupuscule I know of, from the Woolly Caterpillars to the 1884 organisations claiming to be the sole inheritors of the pure doctrine of Karl Marx, the result is the same fissiparousness. Only the humble amoeba can rival groups of human beings at breaking into two or more pieces when united in a cause and differing in the methods of achieving it.

In a way, it is heartening, at least for those who are only there to see the fun. There is a colossal

Where are you now, Charlemagne?

No French hero has been left unturned in the Maastricht fight, writes Charles Bremner

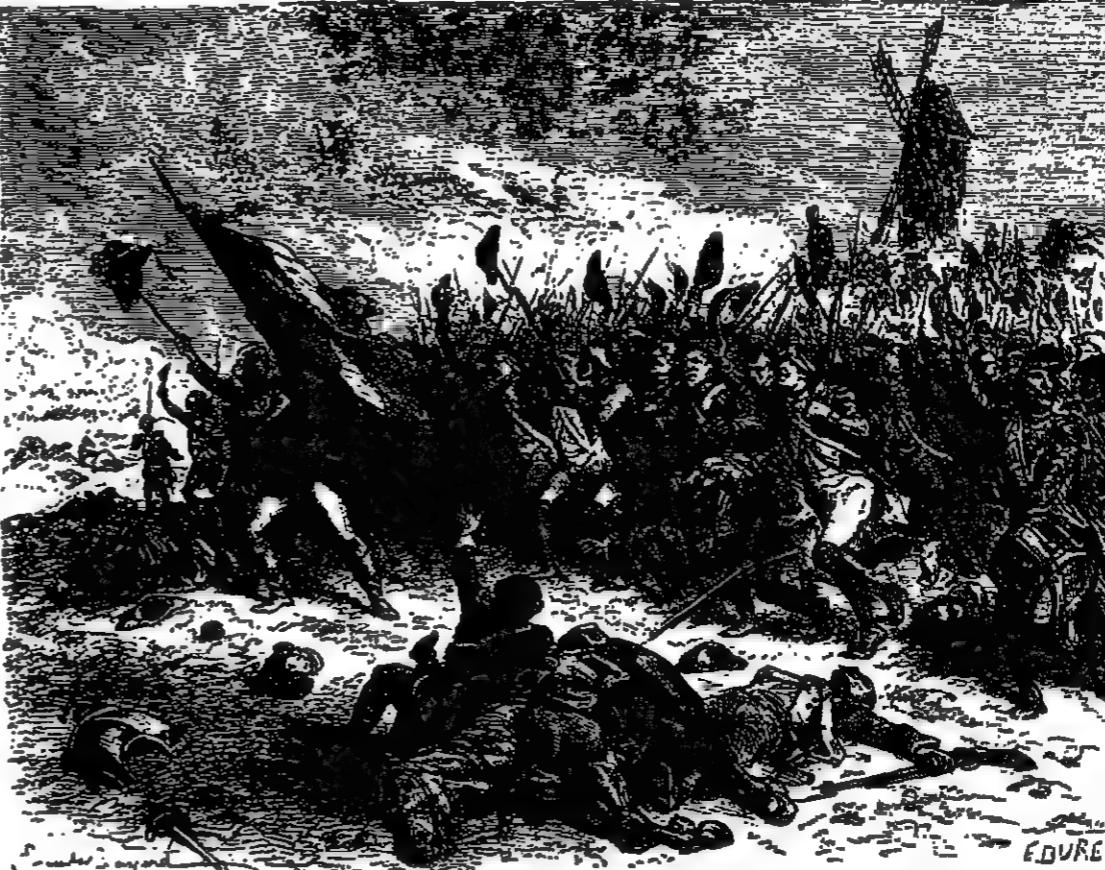
While Britons have pondered financial matters this week, the French have been preoccupied with the grand forces of history. Little troubled by serious pressure on its currency, France has been free to reflect on the role that destiny, with a hand from François Mitterrand, has reserved for it in deciding the fate of a continent. Domestic politics may have driven much of the campaign but in the final hours France's already acute sense of the dramatic is being sharpened by recourse to the glories of the past and present, from Charlemagne through l'Algérie Française to the current reign of the Emperor François. The results are a little confusing, but there is some consensus: the French rather like the idea that once again their country is putting the wind up the rest of Europe.

With his exquisite sense of timing and his passion for history, it was no accident that M. Mitterrand chose September 20 for his referendum. The day marks the 200th anniversary of the battle of Valmy, where the revolutionary army, crying "Vive La Nation!", routed the invading Prussians. Goethe, who was a spectator, later declared the moment to be the birthday of "a new epoch in the history of the world". Valmy, Giscard d'Estaing summoned the spirit of Valmy this week, wielding it as a symbol of the French pride that would come with Maastricht. No one wondered whether the for-

mer president, whose friendship with Helmut Schmidt propelled Europe in the 1970s, really wanted to celebrate the defeat of the Germans.

The air is thick with such conflicting symbols as politicians and pundits have ransacked the past, mixing metaphors for the present passions. Some are far-fetched. Max Gallo, the writer and left-wing anti-European, sees a replay of the Dreyfus affair. Jean-Marie Le Pen, whose National Front party has hijacked Joan of Arc to its ultra-nationalist cause, sees Maastricht as a new retreat from French North Africa. Laurent Fabius, the Socialist party leader, is appealing to "the spirit of 1789 and 1848" and every editorial heavyweight for they are all pro-Maastricht, is casting the consequences of a *non* as a replay of May 1968 combined with the battle of Berezina (where Napoleon, vetoed by his supporters, later declared the moment to be the birthday of a new epoch in the history of the world). Valmy, Giscard d'Estaing summoned the spirit of Valmy this week, wielding it as a symbol of the French pride that would come with Maastricht. No one wondered whether the for-

Napoleon and Charles de Gaulle have been the most active in the debate, which makes sense since both tried to construe



Vive La Nation! The battle of Valmy: but will the French, two centuries later, cry Vive L'Europe?

Europe, by arms or ego. There is, however, little agreement on what they would have done about Maastricht. Spiritual and blood descendants of *le grand Charles* have been squabbling among themselves, with dire consequences for Jacques Chirac's Rassemblement pour la République, the biggest opposition party. One side insists de Gaulle would above all have driven M. Mitterrand from office and bring change in the constitution which was tailored for General de Gaulle in 1958 and

which M. Mitterrand, in opposition, used to denounce as a "permanent coup d'état". Most citizens and M. Mitterrand himself, are said to favour presidential terms shorter than the seven-year stretches, which encourage pretensions of imperial mystery in the incumbents of the Elysée.

The Maastricht question is

very much an extension of the quarrels which define the Republic's image of itself. As Serge July, the editor of *Liberation*, sees it, France is being asked to

approve a break with the omnipotent central government which has served it well since the Revolution and accept a supranational form of democracy based on a balance of powers and rule of law, like the Anglo-Saxon one. In "Franco-French" terms, the European "space", as the advocates like to call it, will be Girondin and not Jacobin. Not so fast, say the opponents, who see the country falling prey to the Robespierres of Brussels, Bonn and Frankfurt. The real Jacobins, they say, are the pro-Europeans who want to allow the creation of a despotic super-state. The technocrat as arch-villain has of course had his hands on the levers of French power since Colbert invented him. Bonaparte perfected him and Robert Schuman later helped send him to Brussels but neither side seems to recognise him as one of their own.

While the rest of Europe cannot wait for the French to make up their minds, it is clear that the campaign has been profoundly healthy. *Le Figaro* called it "a bout of collective psychotherapy which the French have not experienced for a long time". Elisabeth Guigou, the minister for European affairs and the quintessence of a technocrat, says it has brought the people back into touch with the elite. Her colleagues may also be remembering a final history lesson. Since the 14th century France has rejected all schemes for continental union which it has not itself led.

...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

A daily journalist necessarily travels light in paraphernalia and depth of knowledge. Nobody who scribbles so much, so fast, on so many diverse topics can carry much baggage of weighty research. There is no time: it is not his métier. I first learnt this as a cub reporter on *The Times*, doing the late night shift, viz, sitting in the office all night, catching up on "exclusives" in the opposition, and dealing with news breaking around the world.

At about 10.20 pm the editor, an infrequent and awesome visitor in those days, shambled into the news room and said: "Sydney Silverman's bill to abolish capital punishment has just received its second reading. Write a feature on the history of capital punishment for the late edition."

This meant 1,000 words in 90 minutes off the top of my head or the seat of my pants. I stammered: "Surely we should have foreseen this? Not my subject. Know nothing about capital punishment. Surely better to wait and do it properly when the Home Affairs Correspondent comes in tomorrow morning." The Ed said, coldly: "It's your job." So I did it and it was published. I do not suppose it is preserved as a classic text in the literature of the grisly topic.

What the short-distance sprinting journo needs is sources where he can find any conceivable fact, and many inconceivable ones, fast. The new computerised databanks deluge him with more facts than anyone could possibly use, as every article on capital punishment published anywhere

No deals, Mr Major

FORMER colleagues of John Major from the prime minister's days at Standard Chartered Bank are not in the least surprised at the sterling debacle on the foreign exchanges this week. Graham Bell, who worked with Major in the bank's marketing department, yesterday recalled the day in 1975 when the future prime minister was told by a senior bank official that he had no future as a foreign exchange dealer.

Bell, who retired from the bank about 10 years ago, says: "John was always more interested in politics than banking and I never doubted he had the ruthless streak necessary to carry him into the Cabinet. But I can distinctly recall him telling me: 'I have been told by the chief dealer that I have got no future in dealing. He just was not cut out for it.'

The chief dealer, Bell says, was Alan Orfuch, now the bank's deputy chairman. His advice was probably sound, for Major went on to great success elsewhere in the bank, ultimately becoming head of public affairs.

Bell, who now lives in Ascot, went on to become an internal auditor at the bank. He has been in correspondence with Bryan Gould, shadow heritage minister, over economic policy but is not a member of any political party. "I just think John has made quite a mess of this one," he says.

Wilf Manser, group public affairs manager for Standard Chartered Bank, confirms that Orfuch was Major's superior at the time.



Wilf Manser

Wilf Manser, Charles Hendry and Alan Duncan (who loaned his house to John Major's leadership campaign), were guests of the Konrad Adenauer Institute. "It is fair to say that we left them with a clear view of what we think. But they were as shell-shocked as we were," says Hendry, a former special adviser to Tony Newton.

If Hendry was in the right place at the right time, his old boss was most definitely not. Newton, now the Leader of the Commons and the man responsible for organising next week's recall of Parliament, is in New Zealand.

There goes your plan to use Scud missiles

"*There goes your plan to use Scud missiles*" is a political cartoon. It shows a man in a suit holding a newspaper with the headline "There goes your plan to use Scud missiles". Another man in a suit is looking at him with a shocked expression.

an outsider.

There are precedents. In the 1920s the Home Office turned to Air Marshal Lord Trenchard to shake up the Met. "If Clarke wants to be radical, de la Billière would not be a bad choice," says our supergrass, pointing out that the general, as director of the SAS, masterminded the 1980 storming of the Iranian embassy.

Laura Patten, the 17-year-old daughter of the new governor-general of Hong Kong, has been left in safe hands. When Chris Patten returned briefly to Britain this week one of his tasks was to install his daughter in comfortable lodgings while she continues her education. The Foreign Office minister Tristian Garel-Jones should prove both a suitable landlord and protector. "I think she attracted more attention than the new governor-general when the family went out there," says Garel-Jones. "We have known all the Patten girls since they were little. We are very happy to have Laura."



A TOUS LES FRANCAIS

Before a day of great national decision you may not want the advice of your friends. You may particularly resent British advice on a subject which has so often in recent years divided us. Nor does *The Times* normally seek direct influence on voters in foreign elections. But, as we once said in turbulent times some century and a half ago, "England watches with deep but varied emotion the revolutions of the great sister empire." The abdication of Bourbons once mattered to us. Your vote on Maastricht matters to us now.

In February 1848 we could speak with the ponderous confidence for which the times and *The Times* were known. "Bound by many natural and political affinities", we said, "with interwoven annals and cognate institutions, the two states are placed together, by universal consent, at the head of European civilisation." The language may have changed, the consent may no longer be so universal but the affinities remain. Your referendum tomorrow is a European event. We are all engaged in its outcome.

Your verdict on the Maastricht treaty will be decisive because, from the earliest days of Europe's postwar reconstruction, men of the calibre of Jean Monnet have stamped French influence on all the institutions of the European Community. This success has not always been to the liking of other Europeans, who have come to perceive the EC as designed by and for French interests.

Past commitments ensure, however, that whatever the result of tomorrow's vote your commitment to the "European idea" will remain unquestioned. The issue before you is not whether France is to continue to work for the Treaty of Rome's goal of "ever closer union", but whether the route mapped at Maastricht is the right one.

You have the opportunity, denied to most of your fellow Europeans, to evaluate a treaty negotiated in your name and concluded last December with minimum debate. The many ambiguities of the text are no accident. Nor are they merely the inevitable consequence of compromise. They are mistakes which you alone can erase on Sunday.

The Oui campaign makes two main claims. The first is that French influence in Europe and the world depend on abandoning the franc for a single European currency and central bank, within a European Union with a common foreign policy and, if President Mitterrand has his way, an EC defence strategy independent of American power. Your president, in a curious twist of logic, has even presented this far-reaching constitutional change as an insurance policy against change: a protective umbrella under which France can shelter from the free market in the frontier-free Community which will open for business as the clocks chime in the new year.

The second is that this treaty is the culmination of four decades of Franco-German rapprochement and, more darkly, your unique chance to curtail the power of a unified Germany. History, much invoked in this debate, has a sense of humour. You are being asked to take this grand design on trust in a week when the Bundesbank has helped destroy the European exchange-rate mechanism.

You have been warned by Jack Lang that in the event of a Non, "a depression would hit the whole of Europe". Yet the markets have responded buoyantly to the rupture of the monetary chains which have enabled Germany to share the costs of German unification with the rest of Europe, freely exposing its recession.

The Oui campaign interprets this week's chaos as further justification for hastening into a monetary union which would end the supremacy of the Bundesbank. But in exchange for what? President Mitterrand insists that the new European Central Bank would follow policies laid down by the EC's national governments — with Germany, by implication, just one voice among others. Economics has never been your president's forte. The text of the Maastricht treaty insists

that the EC bank governors may take instructions from no politician. Even if it did not, can you imagine that Germany, whose parliament is now demanding its own version of the British "opt out clause", will give up its deutschmark for anything less immune to political pressure than the Bundesbank?

The insistence with which you have discussed such questions in recent weeks has been the admiration of Europe — the more so, since your president unleashed what has become a great national debate casually, almost by accident, and with every show of expecting it to be formal. Your government appeared at first to think that it need serve up no more than a comic-strip campaign, spiced with xenophobia.

You were to be swayed by posters caricaturing Uncle Sam, Japanese Sumo wrestlers, Hitler and the German "demons". Selective quotations from Napoleon I, whose methods of unifying Europe are somewhat out of fashion, and of such stout defenders of modern French nationalism as Charles de Gaulle, were to be reinforced by a posse of celebrity cheer leaders, who were astonished to meet ordinary citizens who have actually read the Maastricht treaty.

A few in the anti-Maastricht camp have responded in kind. But the French people have sharply reminded politicians that their place is as servants not masters. Simone Veil likened the Non campaigners to "children knocking down sandcastles". Throughout France, you insisted on deciding for yourselves whether or not the sandcastles would stand the test of time.

You properly wanted to know what price in austerity and unemployment France would pay, what balance of power Maastricht would strike between the Brussels bureaucracy and your own democratic institutions. You wanted to know whether a foreign policy determined by at least a dozen governments would genuinely increase French standing in the world, or condemn them all to collective paralysis.

Both camps have distorted the debate. The extreme fringes of left and right have appealed to narrow nationalism: voters have been encouraged to link the treaty to unpopular reforms of the common agricultural policy and fears of uncontrolled immigration. In reality CAP reform is inevitable with or without the treaty, and France is already committed under the 1992 single market, and its adherence to the Schengen treaty, to allow free movement of people within the Community.

You have been told by your political establishment that by voting "Non" France will be "the black sheep of Europe" (Jacques Chirac), would send Germany into "anti-democratic ferment" (Pierre Bérégovoy), lose all influence in the EC (Jacques Delors), or enable "Washington and Tokyo to rub their hands, the yen and the dollar in triumph" (Jack Lang).

Voltaire would have regarded this with amusement. Politicians, more than most people, "n'emploient les paroles que pour déguiser leurs pensées". Most of them know that a Non will not end the "construction of Europe" nor a Oui greatly simplify the task. The treaty before you was designed in the panic of 1990, when France's over-riding preoccupation was to lock a united Germany into the western part of a still divided Europe. The Maastricht model reflects the needs of a Europe that now no longer exists.

This is the first time in four decades that you have fully discussed what you mean by "Europe". Your politicians, like our own, have run too far ahead of their electorates. The unaccountable institutions of Europe are not so far from that "narrow body, corrupted with the endless ramifications of patronage" which we once accused Louis-Philippe of creating. "The vast web" does not quite hang "from one man" as it did in 1848. But your message to your leaders tomorrow should be an equally clear "Non" on behalf of France and of all Europe.

THE PRICE OF PRIDE

What price the saving of John Major's face? By now there is not much to rescue. But for 24 hours this week the government tried at great expense to hold fast at bay. Even after it had become quite clear to some of the government's own officials that sterling could not be supported, Mr Major decided to pump £15-20 billion into the currency markets in the hope of shifting the responsibility for devaluation away from the government to the market's elemental force. The result was a net loss to the taxpayer of at least £1 billion, plus a drastic slimming down of foreign currency reserves. But this is by no means the first time a government has spent taxpayers' money on its own political ends.

All devaluations happen too late. In the meantime, huge sums of money are spent trying and failing to buck the markets. In 1931, a national government was formed precisely to protect sterling's position against the gold standard, since the previous Labour government had made such a hash of managing the economy. Within a month, Britain had abandoned the gold standard, and not without cost. In the two months before abandonment, over £200 million (in 1931 money) had been withdrawn in gold and credits from London.

In 1949, Labour too had to devalue, though much against the instincts of the Chancellor, Stafford Cripps, who was sick in a sanatorium in Switzerland. Again, the Bank had informed the Treasury that the lack of reserves made it harder and harder to sustain an unrealistic rate for sterling. Again, though, politicians put off the political pain for as long as they could.

Perhaps the closest parallel, though, is with the Labour government of the mid-

1960s. At the end of 1964, the year Labour won power, the governor of the Bank of England, Lord Cromer, pressed for massive public spending cuts, especially after a rise in the rate had done nothing to stabilise the pound. The prime minister, Harold Wilson, asked why foreign speculators should be allowed to overrule British voters and demand Tory measures from a Labour government. Lord Cromer was forced to raise a \$3 billion loan from other central bankers and embarked upon what was then the largest ever rescue operation attempted by international bankers. Still devaluation could only be postponed until 1967.

Political pride is defended in other ways too, leaving the taxpayer out of pocket. Concorde, the only white elephant ever to fly, was a monstrously uneconomic project, defended remorselessly in cabinet by Tony Benn in whose constituency it was being built. (Barbara Castle described it in her diaries as "Wedge's toy".)

More recently, around £6 billion was spent by Margaret Thatcher's government to mitigate the worst effects of the poll tax. And the history of by-elections and general elections is scattered with political bribes. Would the Humber Bridge exist had it not been promised during the Kingston-on-Hull by-election in 1966?

At least the nation can comfort itself that it was only money that was poured away, not blood. National pride has too often been paid for with the lives of young men in war. Nonetheless Mr Major's quixotic battle with the speculators still seems the economic equivalent of the Charge of the Light Brigade: half a billion, half a billion, half a billion onwards...

No let-up in struggle to find a practicable way through the monetary maze

From Mr Nicholas Bennett

Sir, The events of the past few days present the government with an excellent opportunity to reassess the fundamentals of economic policy. The engine and wheels have fallen off the ERM (exchange-rate mechanism) and the bodywork is full of rust; there is therefore little point in refilling its tank with petrol. Faced with a challenge it could never surmount, the ERM is effectively finished.

Interest rates can now be used to tackle UK economic conditions rather than to pay for the cost of German reunification.

Squeezing inflation out of the economy rightly remains the government's prime objective (indeed if it were not, the financial markets would soon reduce the value of sterling still further and fuel inflation), but such a policy is not incompatible with reductions in interest rates to aid economic growth.

Whilst undoubtedly there was some speculation in the financial markets, encouraged by the ERM one-way ticket, the value of sterling was determined, as it always will be in the long run, by the market's perception of the state of the British economy. There is considerable concern about the balance-of-payments deficit and the size of the government's spending programme both as a percentage of GDP (gross domestic product) and the effect it has had on the PSBR (public-sector borrowing requirement).

It is vital, if we wish to prevent the re-emergence of inflation as a result of falls in the exchange rate, that as well as reducing interest rates the government should also cut public expenditure. Only then will the confidence of the market be such that sterling will once again appreciate.

Yours faithfully,

NICHOLAS BENNETT

(Under-Secretary of State

for Wales, 1990-2)

7 Hareton Close, SE23.

September 18.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, How John Major must long for the French to vote "no" on Sunday. His handling of the ERM must seem just a taster for the Maastricht debate, if there is to be one. It must now be obvious that, as exchange rates are merely a reflection of economic reality, if the stresses of the ERM were too much, the pain of one currency may be unbearable.

John Major's claim that Maastricht entrenches subsidiarity is no more convincing than his recent claims

about sterling. Maastricht is clearly part of the progress to one currency, Britain included, and eventually one state.

Mr Major may survive this crisis, but should not survive the next if the Commons does not ratify Maastricht. At stake will be not only his leadership but four years of Tory government. His one escape will be to hold a referendum, but how much easier if the French would only vote "no".

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE THOMAS.

17 Campden Hill Square, W8.

September 17.

From Mr R. M. Johnson

Sir, The argument against independent central banks (leading article, September 15) is flawed. Whether or not politicians are successful in their efforts to "manipulate their economies for political ends" is irrelevant because they always seem to try, and the effects of their efforts are often harmful.

Moreover, politicians are much more susceptible to the "bad decisions" which you describe as "their prerogative" than are the boards of independent banks because political selection is more dependent on sophistry and less on economic literacy.

As for the economic history of the past 15 years, both Germany and the USA have benefited from consistent monetary prudence, courtesy of their central banks, and suffered from erratic fiscal policies, thanks to their politicians. Britain has suffered erratic policies on both counts.

If we had had an independent central bank which adopted the same monetary policies as the Fed and the Bundesbank during Mrs Thatcher's brief experiment with fiscal prudence in the mid-Eighties, Britain would not have needed the ERM to control inflation and might now be enjoying the golden era of Mr Major's dreams instead of the slump of his making.

Yours faithfully,

R. M. JOHNSON.

32 Polwarth Terrace, Edinburgh.

September 15.

From Mr Adrian Cosker

Sir, The fundamental error in the government's ERM policy was, and judging by Mr Lamont's recent remarks still is, a failure to distinguish between the importance of relative price changes (i.e., the inflation rate) and the absolute price level (which is directly influenced by the external parity of the pound) as measures of the likely competitiveness of our economy.

Yours faithfully,

D. E. BARNARD

(Headmaster).

Tunbridge Wells Grammar School.

St John's Road.

Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

September 17.

From Sir John Acland

Sir, According to Simon Jenkins

("With one bound, freedom", September 18) "governments that so wish can (now) pursue their own route to

economic health or damnation, answerable to their own electorates".

Our own route to economic "damnation" over the last few decades has been caused in large part by the repeated devaluations of which he appears to approve. Furthermore, the answerability of our government to its electorate, especially on the issue of Europe, is a subject open to considerable debate.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN ACLAND.

Sprydon, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon.

September 18.

From Mr W. F. J. Batt

Sir, I have been involved in the foreign exchange market for 44 years and continue to be surprised at the naivety of HM Treasury.

Does a rate increase of 5 per cent per annum persuade an investor to buy sterling or dissuade a speculator from selling sterling when there is the likelihood of a 5 per cent movement downwards overnight in the value of the pound?

Although nothing in politics is "cast in stone", to be credible our ministers must demonstrate both commitment and a sense of honour. Even if the British people, who have suffered extraordinary hardship for the sake of a policy now abandoned, are prepared to forgive, I cannot believe that those abroad will be so understanding of another failure by the British government on both counts.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 18: The Prince Edward, Patron, the London Mozart Players, this afternoon departed from Royal Air Force Northolt for a visit to Wroclaw, Poland, to attend Wratyslavia Cantans International Ora-torio-Cantata Festival.
Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer is in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 18
The Duchess of Kent, Patron of The Samaritans, this morning attended the annual Conference at York University.

Mr Peter Troughton was in attendance.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Miss Kate Adie, broadcaster, 47; Mr T.J.A. Colman, Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, 63; Captain R.W. Cunningham-Jardine, Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries and Galloway, 61; Mr Justin Dules, former managing director, Channel 4 Television, 51; Mr Michael Eppich, actor, 46; Captain Jim Fox, pentathlete, 51; Sir William Golding, author, 81; the Right Rev H.R. Gough, former Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia, 87; Mr Jeremy Irons, actor, 44; Sir Robert McDonald, former MP, 63; the Very Rev J. Fraser McLuskey, 78; the Countess of Mar, 52; Mr C.E. Martin, headmaster, Bristol Grammar School, 53; Miss Sheila Minott, civil servant, 84; Mr Austin Mitchell, MP and broadcaster, 58.

Mrs Penelope Mortimer, writer, 74; Mr Pete Murray, broadcaster, 64; Mr Derek Nimmo, actor, 60; Dr H.J. Pfeiffer, antiquarian, 94; Professor Ferry Porsche, car designer, 83; Miss Zandra Rhodes, fashion designer, 52; Dr George Barclay Richardson, warden, Keeble College, Oxford, 68; the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, 63; Professor Sir Geoffrey Slaney, surgeon, 70; Twiggy, former model and actress, 43; Mr C.J. Whittle, director, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 62; Sir Leonard Williams, former director-general

for energy, Commission of the European Communities, 73; Dr Arthur Wills, composer, 66; Judge Harold Wilson, 61.

TOMORROW: Mr John Dankworth, jazz musician, 65; Mr Geoffrey Dear, HM Inspector of Consular, 55; the Earl of Dule, 41; the Very Rev George Earle, SJ, former Jesuit, Stonyhurst College, 67; Sir Doug Fairhurst, High Court judge, 79; the Right Rev C.C.W. James, Bishop of Winchester, 66; Lieutenant-General Sir Garry Johnson, 55; Miss Sophia Loren, actress, 58; Sir Duncan McDonald, former chairman, Northern Engineering Industries, 71; Miss Anne McNaught, MEP, 38; Sir Roderick Macleod, chairman, Lloyd's Register of Shipping, 63; Professor R.M.H. McMinn, anastomosis, 69; Miss Jane Manning, soprano, 54; Sir Stuart Milner-Barry, civil servant and chess champion, 86; Sir David Nicolson, former chairman, BTR, 70; Miss Christine Oddy, MEP, 37; the Right Rev Kenneth Riche, 84; Mr José Rivero, golfer, 57; Sir John Sumnerford, former Chief Justice, Cayman Islands, 72; Mr Jeremy Varon, director-general, United World Colleges, 55; Sir John Whitehead, diplomat, 60; Mr Fred Winter, racehorse trainer, 61.



Richard Moore, who plays Launce in the RSC's production of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, which opens at the Barbican next month, meeting another member of the cast, Woolly, a tinker who made his name as Crab at Stratford

Church services tomorrow

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC 9.30 M. Rev J.C. Penton: 11.5 Eucharist. 10.30 Choral Evensong. 11.30 Mass for the Dead (Nobis). Remember for good, O Father [Jackson] 4.8. Wood in E flat. Lord, have mercy upon these [Barstalls]. Christ is Risen.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC 10.30 M. Responses (Leighton), Te Deum & Jubilate (Boyce). The Deum 11.30. Mass for the Dead (Nobis). Remember for good, O Father [Jackson] 4.8. Wood in E flat. Lord, have mercy upon these [Barstalls]. Christ is Risen.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC 10.30 M. Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication on Banks of Britain Sunday 11.30. Mass for the Dead (Nobis). Remember for good, O Father [Jackson] 4.8. Wood in E flat. Lord, have mercy upon these [Barstalls]. Christ is Risen.

THE CHAPEL ROYAL, ST JAMES'S PALACE: 9.30 Services resume October 4.

ROYAL CHAPEL, ST GEORGE'S CHURCH: 10.30 M. God save King Arthur, Hall Paddington Hymn (Wood). Carlton (Vinet), Rev G. Claxton.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL, THE SAVOY: 10.30 Services resume October 4.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich: SE 10: 11.5 Eucharist. Give us the wings of a dove (Tomkins).

ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11.5 M. Lord, increase my faith (Gibbons), Deum. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Goss), New E. Lord, have mercy upon these [Sousa Guards], 12 HC (Salvi).

GRAY'S INN CHAPEL: Services resume October 4.

TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: 9.15 M & sermon. Responses (Gibbons), Te Deum & Jubilate (Wood). St. Edmund's Chapel, St. Edmund's Chapel Service (Wood). Short Service, Beatiudines (Handel). Canon J.G. M. Murphy.

TEMPLE CHAPEL, Fleet Street, EC4: Services resume October 4.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-BELOWES, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11.5 Eucharist. Thanksgiving Service for our Battle of Britain, Rev D. H. G. Clark.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC 11. M. Farrant to A minor. The eyes of all wait upon Thee (Wood). Lord, have mercy upon these [Sousa Guards], 12 HC (Salvi).

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GRAY'S INN CHAPEL: Services resume October 4.

TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: 9.15 M & sermon. Responses (Gibbons), Te Deum & Jubilate (Wood). St. Edmund's Chapel, St. Edmund's Chapel Service (Wood). Short Service, Beatiudines (Handel). Canon J.G. M. Murphy.

TEMPLE CHAPEL, Fleet Street, EC4: Services resume October 4.

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ROYAL CHAPEL, ST GE

OBITUARIES

GEORGE CRILE

George Washington Crile Jr., a surgeon who attracted the wrath of the American medical establishment for his successful campaign against unnecessary surgery, died of lung cancer in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 11 aged 84. He was born in Cleveland on November 3, 1907.

UNCOUNTED patients in the United States, especially women suffering from breast cancer, have cause to be grateful for George Crile's minimalist attitude towards his own profession. He believed that drastic surgery was often unwarranted, and that many surgeons performed heroic feats with the scalpel for their own glorification, or even for their enrichment. And he said so loudly. Among doctors who routinely collected enormous fees for their work on the operating table this view was, to say the least, not popular. Crile's aversion to over-use



of the scalpel sprang from his experiences in the US Navy during the second world war when he conducted research on ruptured appendices. He found them far less life-threatening than common believed, which led to the conclusion that emergency appendectomies on board submarines, while courageous, could do more harm than good.

"I came home from the war convinced that operations in many fields of surgery were either too radical, or not even necessary," he once said. "Universal acceptance of a procedure does not necessarily make it right."

On his return to the Cleveland Clinic, where he had

worked since gaining his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1929, Crile began to work on alternative treatments for thyroid cancer to replace intrusive surgery as much as possible. Among his suggestions, since widely adopted, were treatments with new radioactive iodines.

With fewer thyroid operations to perform, Crile turned his attention to breast cancer in the late 1950s. At that time in the US the standard procedure was radical mastectomy — removal of the entire breast, the surrounding lymph glands and major chest muscles. Crile himself had once been a firm believer in this operation, but he came under the influence of Reginald Murray, a Scottish physician who was combining partial mastectomy with radiation treatment.

This procedure, along with lumpectomy for women in the early stages of the disease, was already widely practised in Europe. But American surgeons proved highly resistant to change, even after Crile published a paper in 1961 to demonstrate that the survival rates for lumpectomy and simple mastectomy were comparable to those for the radical operation. He became the object of "ridicule and scorn" among his peers.

But Crile did not give up. In two books, *What Women Should Know About the Breast Cancer Controversy and Surgery, Your Choices, Your Alternatives*, he brought the debate out into the open by encouraging patients to demand information so that they might make informed decisions, rather than be treated like children. As more and more American women revolted against the doctor-knows-best tradition, a growing number of surgeons began to agree with them and with Crile. Today, lumpectomy and simple mastectomy have become the treatments of first choice.

Crile was associated with the Cleveland Clinic for more than half a century. He retired as head of his department in 1968, but continued to work as an emeritus consultant. He also remained a writer, compulsive diarist, world traveller, diver and film maker.

George Crile lost his first wife to cancer in 1963 and is survived by his second wife, one son, and three daughters.

MILICENT FENWICK

Millicent Fenwick, one of the most unusual and unorthodox politicians ever to serve in the US House of Representatives, died of heart failure at her home in Bernardsville, New Jersey, on September 16 aged 82. She was born in Manhattan on February 25, 1910.

PIPE smoking, which she took up when her doctor warned her to give up cigarettes, was perhaps the least of Millicent Fenwick's idiosyncrasies. As a Republican Congresswoman from one of the wealthiest constituencies in New Jersey, she persistently fought for liberal causes that were well to the left of most members of the Democratic Party. Tall and patrician, but down-to-earth and even pungent in her speech, she inspired the *Lacey Davenport* character in Gary Trudeau's "Doonesbury" cartoons, published in *The Guardian*.

She was, said one admirer, "the Katharine Hepburn of politics". With her dignity and elegance, she could get away with saying things others could not.

It was true. Once, in a debate over equal rights for women, she fixed her twinkling eye on a male legislator who said: "I just don't like this amendment. I've always thought of women as kiddy and smelling good."

"That's the way I feel about men, too," responded Fenwick. "I only hope for your sake that you haven't been disappointed as often as I have."

Millicent Fenwick was born with the proverbial silver spoon in her mouth. Brought up by her financier father in a 50-room house in New Jersey, after her mother had been drowned in the sinking of the *Lusitania* when she was five,



she never received a high school diploma or college degree but was fluent in Italian, French and Spanish. She also studied philosophy under Bertrand Russell at the New School for Social Research, which may have accounted for her liberal leanings when she finally entered Congress at the advanced age of 64.

There, she fought with tenacity on a wide range of issues, including civil rights, peace in Vietnam, aid for asbestos victims, help for the poor, prison reform, strip-mining controls, reduction of military programmes, urban renewal, election campaign spending limits, gun control, and restrictions on capital punishment. Her struggle to win toilet facilities for migrant farmworkers earned her the nickname of "outhouse Millicent". It was an agenda to make her aristocratic constituents in horsey Somerset County blink with astonishment, but they continued to re-elect her until, in 1982, she gave up her House seat to run for the US Senate and lost narrowly to Frank Lautenberg, a Democratic millionaire.

Lautenberg spent millions on a campaign portraying Fenwick as a doddering eccentric. Doddering, she was not, but she was certainly eccentric.

She refused to accept contributions for her own campaign from influence-peddling politi-

cal action committees.

As a young woman, Fenwick scandalised her family by falling in love with a married man, Hugh Fenwick. The couple later married but the union ended in divorce, and she was left with two children and her husband's debts. Refusing money from her family, she scraped by on her own, modelling briefly for *Harper's Bazaar* and then working as a writer and editor at *Vogue* magazine. In 1948 she compiled *Vogue's Book of Etiquette* which sold a million copies.

She inherited a fortune on the death of her father in 1956, but by that time frugality had become a habit. Fenwick continued to count her change from coffee, use one lamp to work by, and drive a cheap Chevrolet that stood out in a community where Mercedes are thicker than fleas on a hound dog. Her money was placed in a blind trust to avoid political conflicts of interest.

Fenwick's political career began in 1969, when she won a seat in the New Jersey state legislature. Three years later she was appointed as New Jersey's first director of consumer affairs, in which post she protected car buyers from deceptive advertising and compelled funeral homes to itemise their bills in advance.

After losing her race for the Senate, Fenwick was appointed by President Reagan as the first American envoy to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. In Rome.

She retired from that position in 1987. She regarded her role in the formation of the Helsinki Commission, which monitors compliance with the 1975 Helsinki Accord on human rights, as her greatest achievement.

Millicent Fenwick is survived by her son.

MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE PAYNE

Major General George Lefevre Payne, CB, CBE, the Director of Ordnance Services, 1964-68, died at Roehampton on September 10 aged 81. He was born at Kew on June 23, 1911.

GEORGE Payne was one of the senior officers of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) in the War Office during the early 1960s when, in the wake of the ending of National Service, the Nye Committee, followed by the McLeod Committee, delved into and restructured the army's logistic services.

As Deputy Director of Ordnance Services, he helped to defeat the more extreme proposals for amalgamation of the RAOC with the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC); and when he became Director himself, he had to implement the watered down compromise, which emerged from the McLeod deliberations of transferring to the RAOC only the supply functions of RASC, which became today's Royal Corps of Transport (RCT).

The son of an eminent doctor, George Payne was educated at King's School, Canterbury, and Sandhurst before being commissioned into the Leicestershire Regiment in 1931. An impressively tall and good looking military figure, he served initially with the 2nd Battalion at Catterick and Londonderry, and then transferred to the 1st Battalion in India in 1933. Socially articulate and personally well organised, he was also an accomplished all round sportsman. He seemed set for a promising military career, when tragedy struck.

Invalided home in 1936 with septicaemia and acute malarial, he was medically downgraded to "home service only". Realising that there was no future for him as an infantry officer, and having no wish to leave the Army with war so imminent, he transferred to the RAOC in 1938 and specialised in ammunition handling.

Medical problems still dogged him. He went to France with the BEF in 1939, but was again invalided home for the removal of a kidney stone. He spent the rest of the war in ammunition jobs in England. His career started to widen in 1950, when he was made secretary to the Army Dress Committee. One of his duties was to seek King George VI's approval for new patterns of uniform. His straightforward approach and obvious integrity enabled him to establish an unusually close rapport with the King. He seemed set for a promising military career, when tragedy struck.

After he retired from the Army in 1968, he was sought by industry, but, being a very caring person, he was more interested in helping people than making money for himself. For ten years, he served as Appeals Director of the National Council for Social Services; and then in 1983, he joined the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association, becoming its chairman in 1986 and president in 1991.

He married Betty Maude in 1938. They had twin sons and a third son who died in 1990. He nursed Betty, who had contracted Parkinson's Disease, for ten years before she died in 1982. His second marriage was to Georgina Cookson, the actress, in 1990. She and his twin sons survive him.

for sound, if orthodox, views without pretensions to great intellectual capacity. Nevertheless, he was the man who drove through the Army's first computerised supply system when he was appointed to command Central Ordnance Depot at Chilwell in 1957. His balanced outlook also enabled him, as Deputy Director of Ordnance Services in the War Office 1959-64, to support his director effectively in opposing extremism in the Nye and McLeod Committees.

When he became Director himself in 1964, he had two challenges: implementing the Nye Committee's decision that the Director should shed responsibility for ordnance and supply policy leaving him to concentrate on the management of his corps; and receiving all RASC supply personnel into the RAOC. While he did not agree with the former, he made it work and he welcomed the RASC transfers as fairly and humanely as possible. Such was his success in overcoming the difficulties caused by these changes that his tenure as Director was

extended a year. Perhaps sadly, he lived just too long, and died before he died of the coming amalgamation of the RAOC and RCT, recently announced in the "Options for Change" decisions of the Ministry of Defence.

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LOU JACOBS



blunderbuss, was also known to appear in turkey feathers and, on one memorable occasion, sporting an elephant's trunk.

In 1952 Jacobs reached an even wider audience when he appeared in the Cecil B. DeMille epic *The Greatest Show on Earth*. He helped teach the rudiments of clowning to James Stewart who played Buttons, an exuberant and colourful auguste in the Lou Jacobs mould.

Jacobs was subsequently inducted into the International Circus Hall of Fame and the Clown Hall of Fame, and continued performing until the age of 82. Long ranked with three of this century's other great circus clowns — Otto Griebling, Emmett Kelly and Felix Adler — Jacobs took his art seriously and worried about the dearth of young people who wanted to be circus performers. In an

attempt to solve the problem in 1968 he became a founding "professor" at the Clown College of the Ringling Circus in Venice, Florida.

He continued to make occasional guest appearances at the Sarasota Circus Festival and the Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee and towards the end of his career he made a nostalgic return visit to Germany where a documentary television programme of his life was produced.

In 1953, Jacobs married Jean Rockwell, a circus trapeze artist with Ringling, who had been injured in fall before thousands of spectators at the old Madison Square Garden arena in New York in 1948. They had two daughters, Lou Ann and Dolly, both of whom became aerial performers. His wife and daughters survive him.

Sale room

Marilyn studies reflect a golden age

By JOHN SHAW

THE golden age of Hollywood comes to London next month in a sale of more than 200 classic photographs of great stars from the 1930s to the early 1960s.

They are all from private collections and many have never been shown before. The centrepiece is a group of more than 100 pictures of Marilyn Monroe, who died 30 years ago.

The sale, at Bonhams in Knightsbridge on October 10, was organised by Cyril Frankel, a film producer and consultant director at the auction house, who said it was the largest number of photographs of the tragic star ever offered for sale. "There's a range," he said. "It's very exciting. Nobody can fail to catch her wonderful quality. Some of the pictures are quite breathtaking. That girl comes over as pure sunshine."

Asked if she had been over-exposed by too many anniversary tributes this year, he said: "No, I don't think she will be. She had a unique inner quality that always comes through and communicates to people. It's extraordinary."

There is an original print by Tom Kelly for the infamous nude calendar of 1949 and work by her favourite photographers such as Andre de Dienes, Bert Stern, who persuaded her to pose for "the last sitting". George Barris, who actually took the last photograph, and Milton Greene, producer of the film in which she starred with Laurence Olivier, *The Prince and the Showgirl*.

"Although we cover an enormous range of stars the real stars are the photographers," he said. "This sale covers the work of a lot of very famous people going back to

Clarence Sinclair Bull, head of the stills department at MGM who virtually invented celebrity photography as we know it today."

Bull was at MGM for 40 years. He was famed for his ethereal studies of Greta Garbo, done with the aid of candles and kerosene lamps and Mr Frankel has several examples from Lea Berkeley, who worked with Bull for seven years. Among many others, he also photographed Clark Gable and Leslie Caron.

One of Bull's trainees was George Hurrell, whose classic work was summed up by *Esquire* in a jazzy description typical of 1936: "A Hurrell portrait is to the publicity still what a Rolls-Royce is to a roller skate." He died only recently and the sale includes his portraits of Marlene Dietrich, Gary Cooper, Loretta Young and Tyrone Power.

A collection of 13 pieces sent for sale by her trustees includes an 18-carat gold, emerald, onyx and diamond bangle by Kurchinsky estimated at £4,000-£6,000.

SEPT 19 ON THIS DAY 1932

ground and the iron spikes were used by the rioters in their attack on the police and serious wounds were inflicted.

Wherever the police were seen sweeping up a street the rioters disappeared into houses, from the windows of which women threw all kinds of missiles. At one time the police were hemmed in by two crowds, approaching from opposite directions, and the constables had to use their batons. It was in this struggle that the officers suffered chiefly.

The fight spread into the side streets, and at one point a wall was partially broken down to provide a communication for the rioters.

Over a hundred Birkenhead police were on duty, and they were reinforced by 90 men from the Liverpool police. In the Price Street area 14 shops were damaged and riddled, and the windows of many houses were shattered. The ground-floor windows of a public house were broken, and the mob helped themselves to liquor. In one street the manhole cover of a sewer was lifted and a wire rope was stretched across the street. A number of police fell over this in their pursuit of the mob, and one constable lay wounded in the gutter for nearly an hour before he was rescued by his comrades. Even ambulances were attacked, and one of the motor-omnibuses conveying police reinforcements had all its windows broken.

Special attention was paid to the police vans, which had to run the gauntlet of showers of stones and pieces of metal.

This afternoon, comparative quietness having been restored, carpenters were active in boarding up damaged shop premises and windows of houses. The Mayor of Birkenhead had issued an appeal to all law-abiding citizens to refrain from associating themselves with the rioters and thus prevent more extreme measures being taken.

Seven men arrested for having, it was alleged, taken part in a riotous outbreak in Birkenhead on Thursday were brought before the local magistrates on Saturday and remanded till next Friday.

THE TIMES

Lives Remembered

Excitement...

intrigue...

eccentricity...

All elements of a fascinating new book.

Lives

Remembered

culled from The

Times obituaries

columns of

1991. Tyrants

rub shoulders

with pop stars,

royalty with

politicians, in an

extraordinary

Major turns his fire on Bonn for ERM chaos

Continued from page 1
set monetary policy in this country to meet our objectives," he said. "It will be a British economic policy and a British monetary policy." Treasury sources later dampened hopes of substantial reductions and dismissed suggestions that interest rates could soon fall to 6 per cent.

Mr Lamont's remarks, and the marked change of tone in the government's rhetoric on Europe, was raising concern among the pro-European wing last night over the development of a two-speed Europe. Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, delivered a warning about the dangers of stand-

ing back from Maastricht. "People have not thought through the implications of what would happen to inward investment. If it was perceived that we were going back to a slow stream of Europe, do you think all this Japanese business would be investing here on the present scale?"

Mr Major said that the European currency system had to be run "in the interest of all the countries of Europe and not veered towards national interest in any individual country. We must examine that before we can consider returning." The prime minister said he would not ask the House of Commons to ratify the Maastricht treaty on European union unless France accepts it in tomorrow's vote and until Denmark, which rejected it in a referendum, finds a way of implementing it.

In Rome, an Italian foreign ministry spokesman said that European Community foreign ministers will meet on Monday in New York to discuss the outcome of the French vote. The ministers had planned to be in New York for the general assembly of the United Nations.

Franco Reviglio, the Italian budget minister, said in Rome yesterday that Europe's currency crisis might force EC countries to abandon the idea of economic unity, whatever the result of the French poll. He said that the events of the past week showed a "two-speed Europe" was already a fact and some EC partners were going to need more time to get their economies into shape.

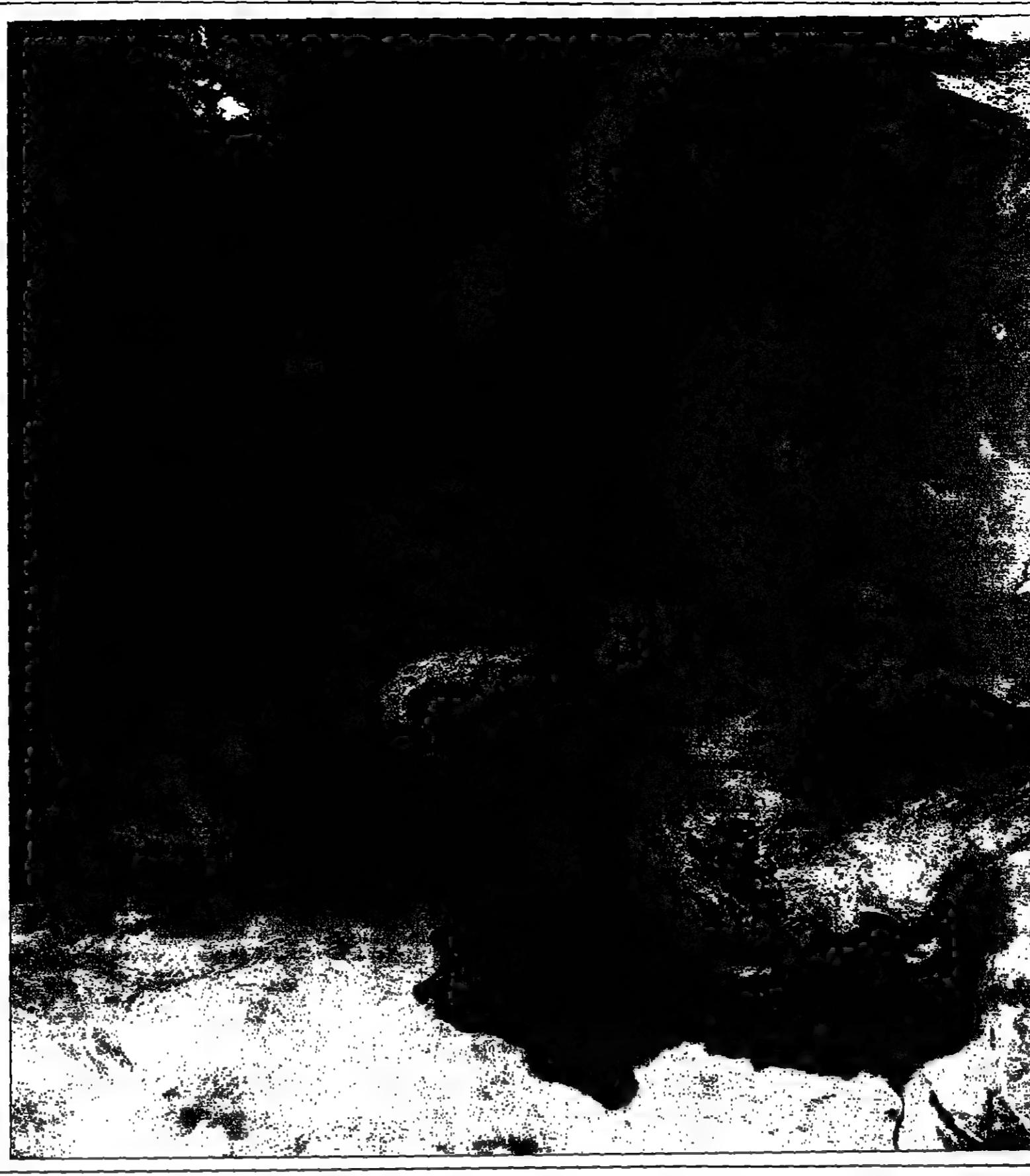
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French polls point to 'yes' result

Continued from page 1
ed by the "three musketeers", Philippe Séguin, Charles Pasqua and Philippe de Villiers, the mainstream right-wing politicians who have marshalled the forces on the side of a "no" vote. They accused M Bérégovoy of "taking the franc hostage in order to steal a 'no' victory from the French people".

They added: "By suggesting that prospects of a 'no' vote are the cause of the monetary crisis and announcing that our currency would be devalued in this case, Bérégovoy is falsifying the truth, misleading the French and playing against France's interests." M Pasqua said that the government had "either deliberately, or through incompetence, created the conditions of monetary disorder".

Treaty reports, pages 4, 5



Europe from above it all

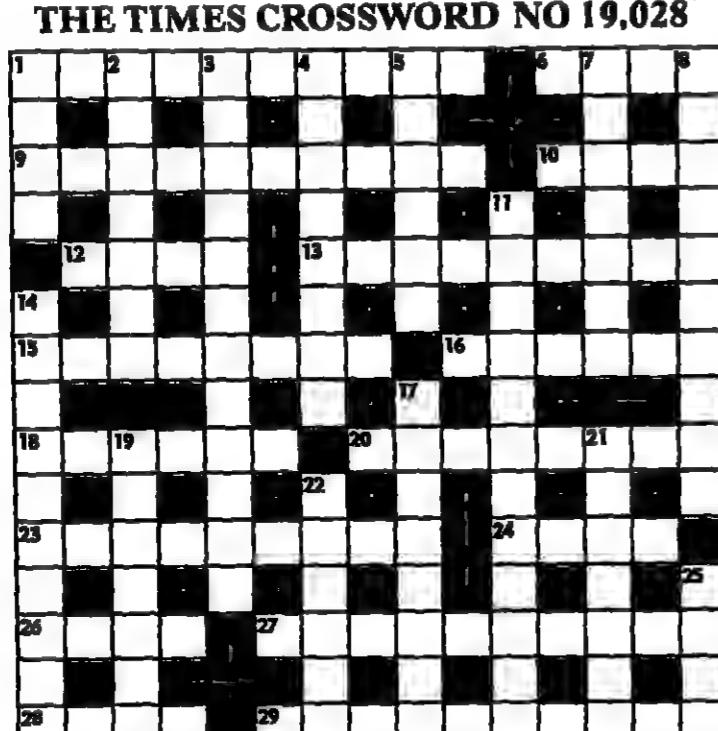
By DANIEL JOHNSON

POLITICS is invisible sub specie aeternitatis, under the aspect of eternity. A cloud-free mosaic composed by weather satellite sensors shows Europe rising like some gorgeous coral reef from the ocean: primeval, peaceful and whole. Frontiers and feuds, passions and prejudices, treaties and referendums seem trivial when contemplated from a celestial perspective: "God is in heaven, and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few."

Yet the Europe in which Europeans live is not the single geopolitical or cultural entity beloved of visionaries, from its Graeco-Roman origins, through medieval Christendom to the secular ideologies of the past two centuries. Real, everyday Europe is a plurality of historical peoples. They live in cities and regions to which they are attached, are distinguishable by their accents and dialects, marry and worship with their own kind, make common cause for a few purposes but for the most part pursue their own interests.

A sensor which could show not temperature but temperament might this week have shown a colourful but fissiparous Europe. The picture would alter as rapidly and often as the currency markets, but one might glimpse offshore islands glowing white with anxiety; the golden stars of the continental capitals darkening to black holes of recrimination; France shimmering in red, white and blue on the eve of her day of reckoning.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,028



WORDSEARCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

DATA
A fast Mexican dance
I like
A savoury rice dish
EBENEZER
A school chaplain
A memorial stonc
An ebony sceptre
ROQUE
A magical Persian bird
A form of croquet
Hard negroes
DHOLE
Social security payment
The crown of a pediment
A wild dog

Answers on page 16

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702
Dorset, Hants & IOW 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wales, Shropshire, Shrops 705
Beds, Bucks, Oxon 706
Beds, Herts & Essex 707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 708
West Mids & Sh Gloucs & Gwent 709
Shrop, Herefs & Warks 710
Central Midlands 711
Lincs & Humberside 712
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Chwyd 715
N W England 716
N & S Yorks & Dales 717
N & S Scotland 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
W Scotland 720
W Central Scotland 721
Ed & Strathclyde & Borders 722
E Central Scotland & Grampian & E Highlands 724
N W Scotland 725
Cathays, Orkney & Shetland 726
N Ireland 727

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Mways/roads M25 M27 733
Mways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M25 London Orbital only 735

National
National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

EE Anglia 741

North & N England 742

Scotland 743

Northern Ireland 745

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AA LIGHTING-UP TIMES

TODAY

London 7.00 pm to 6.45 am

Bristol 7.15 pm to 6.35 am

Edinburgh 7.15 pm to 6.45 am

Manchester 7.27 pm to 6.31 am

Peterborough 7.24 pm to 7.07 am

TONIGHT

London 7.03 pm to 6.45 am

Edinburgh 7.17 pm to 6.31 am

Manchester 7.15 pm to 6.31 am

Peterborough 7.24 pm to 7.07 am

Concise Crossword, page 16
Weekend Times section

The Fifteenth Book of The Times Crosswords published by Times Books, £7.95, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JB, is now on sale at bookshops. Price £3.50

Much of the country will have a dry and bright morning, but eastern England and Scotland will be rather cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Eastern England will brighten during the morning, but eastern Scotland will remain dull. Rain in Northern Ireland and western Scotland will spread southeast during the day reaching Wales and much of northern and western England by midnight. Brighter showery conditions will reach Northern Ireland and western Scotland later. Outlook: remaining unsettled with rain.

WEATHER

Midday: 1=thunder; 2=drizzle; 3=spit; 4=rain; 5=drizzle; 6=rain; 7=showers; 8=rain; 9=rain; 10=rain; 11=rain; 12=rain; 13=rain; 14=rain; 15=rain; 16=rain; 17=rain; 18=rain; 19=rain; 20=rain; 21=rain; 22=rain; 23=rain; 24=rain; 25=rain; 26=rain; 27=rain; 28=rain; 29=rain; 30=rain; 31=rain; 32=rain; 33=rain; 34=rain; 35=rain; 36=rain; 37=rain; 38=rain; 39=rain; 40=rain; 41=rain; 42=rain; 43=rain; 44=rain; 45=rain; 46=rain; 47=rain; 48=rain; 49=rain; 50=rain; 51=rain; 52=rain; 53=rain; 54=rain; 55=rain; 56=rain; 57=rain; 58=rain; 59=rain; 60=rain; 61=rain; 62=rain; 63=rain; 64=rain; 65=rain; 66=rain; 67=rain; 68=rain; 69=rain; 70=rain; 71=rain; 72=rain; 73=rain; 74=rain; 75=rain; 76=rain; 77=rain; 78=rain; 79=rain; 80=rain; 81=rain; 82=rain; 83=rain; 84=rain; 85=rain; 86=rain; 87=rain; 88=rain; 89=rain; 90=rain; 91=rain; 92=rain; 93=rain; 94=rain; 95=rain; 96=rain; 97=rain; 98=rain; 99=rain; 100=rain; 101=rain; 102=rain; 103=rain; 104=rain; 105=rain; 106=rain; 107=rain; 108=rain; 109=rain; 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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

WEEKEND
 MONEY

Profile

James Hann, the chairman of Scottish Nuclear, is an enigma, even to his own family. To a stranger, he appears relaxed and confident. But his brother says he has great difficulty in relaxing and rarely shows his true feelings to anybody. He dislikes pubs and admits to having few friends, and is happiest when on his boat in Scotland. Page 21



Family saver

A new savings scheme by TSB allows family members to combine the totals of their separate accounts to attract higher interest. Under 16s are expected to benefit most. Page 24

Tax deadline

Taxpayers have six weeks to submit their tax returns for 1991-2. Failure to meet the October deadline could result in penalties. The Consumers' Association has some advice. Page 26

INFLATION



Letters Page 26

Poor returns

Lionel Paston-Cooper made a profit of less than £400 on the £4,140 he ploughed into a ten-year savings plan run by City of Westminster Assurance. The company says the bad return was largely due to its decision to invest heavily in smaller companies, a category that has performed particularly badly in the recession. A spokesman rejected suggestions that investing in smaller companies was speculative, but admitted it was high risk. Mr Paston-Cooper was unlucky, he added. Page 24

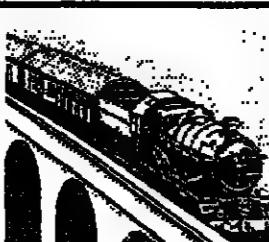


Sold out

Anxious borrowers clamoured for fixed-rate mortgages on Wednesday as lending rates soared. Even Abbey National, which had launched one that morning, sold out. Page 23

Oil slick

The meeting of the OPEC countries ended in disarray as Ecuador asked to leave the oil-producers' cartel while Iran refused to fall in line with an agreement to maintain production. Page 20



Steaming ahead

Grand Central Railway, the privately-owned steam company, is planning a £2m share issue. Supporters are being contacted this month; the public offer for sale is in November. Page 25

Hopes of base rate cut send shares soaring

By MICHAEL CLARK AND COLIN NARBROUGH

THE stock market caught the whiff of cheaper money yesterday, soaring 83.1 points to 2,567.0 and adding £17 billion to share values as speculation intensified that further cuts in interest rates are on the cards.

Brokers say the equity market has undergone a fundamental change in sentiment this week, with the government apparently now committed to using cheaper money to kick-start the economy. The rise on the week is almost 200 points, or 8.2 per cent, since the devaluation of sterling and the apparent U-turn in government economic policy.

Turnover was again high, with 1.3 billion shares changing hands. But stock shortages gave price movements an exaggerated appearance. Brokers complained that the bulk of business was conducted between market-makers as they struggled to shut down existing short positions before the two-week trading account drew to a close.

Strong signals from John Major and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that Britain's re-entry to the exchange-rate mechanism was some way off, reinforced City hopes of a cut in base rates next week and pushed the pound to another record low against the mark.

After shedding two pence overnight from Thursday's DM2.6323 London close, sterling clawed its way back to above DM2.6300 by late morning, only to fall back to DM2.6100 at the close, down

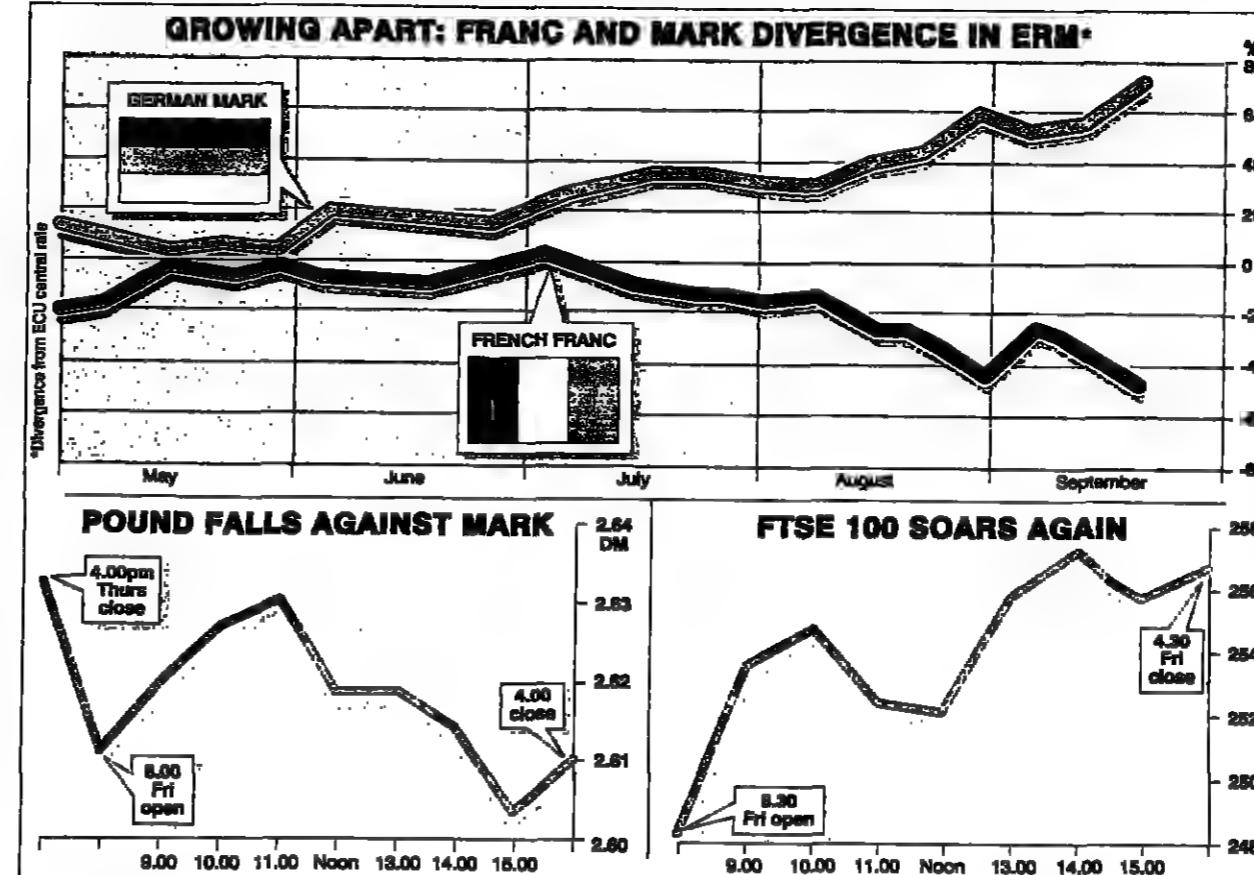
almost 2½ pence from its previous close. This took the pound, which showed no sign of bottoming out, to a record low and represented a fall of more than 16 pence from the absolute lower limit in the exchange-rate mechanism, which the government gave up trying to defend on Wednesday.

Against the ageing dollar, which climbed back over DM1.50, the pound fell more than three cents to \$1.7435 in London. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped 0.9 to 85.5.

In the foreign exchange market, dealers watching sterling futures were anticipating a cut of up to 2 percentage points in base rates in the near future. On Thursday, base rates were returned to 10 per cent after the previous day's aggressive five-point hike in vain defence of sterling's ERM parity. Comments from some leading politicians suggested a 6 per cent base rate before long.

The futures market's December short-term contract pointed to a base rate of about 8.5 per cent before year-end, while in the money markets the benchmark three-month interbank rate was signalling 9.25 per cent. Shorter rates were, however, restrained by expectations of tight credit conditions. The Bank of England sought to ease pressure on day-to-day money by cancelling its regular Friday treasury bill tender.

Expectations meanwhile mounted across Europe for a



ERM cracks widen as core strengthens

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE exchange-rate mechanism remained at a breaking point in the run-up to tomorrow's French referendum on the treaty of Maastricht, whose outcome may decide the fate of 13 years of European monetary co-operation.

The system continued to be polarised into a strong core of European currencies around the mark and a weak fringe. This was manifested by the appreciation of the mark, the guinea and the Belgian franc, and the continued weakness of the other currencies left in the system. The French franc was one of the weakest, trading near its ERM floor, despite massive intervention by the Banque de France. Short-term French interest rates rose to

more than 20 per cent in support of the currency, which financial markets treat as a candidate for devaluation in the event of a 'No' vote. The Bundesbank, however, lent much greater support to the franc yesterday than it had to sterling earlier this week when Hans Tietmeyer, vice-president, said the French currency should not be devalued.

The cracks in the rump ERM reflect expectations of another currency realignment, possibly as early as Sunday night, depending on the outcome of the vote. A realignment is regarded as certain in the event of a French 'No'. A clear 'Yes' vote would probably calm the markets and may even obviate the need

for a realignment. A narrow majority in favour could herald more uncertainty.

European finance ministers are in Washington for the International Monetary Fund meeting, from where they may announce the third ERM realignment in a week, after the 7 per cent devaluation of the lira last Sunday, the suspension of sterling and the lira, and the 5 per cent devaluation of the peseta.

The franc yesterday traded at the bottom of its range at Fr3.4225 against the mark. The Irish punt, another devaluation candidate, despite pledges to the contrary by the Irish government, traded near its floor of Ir2.6525. The Danish crown also traded at

its bottom range.

The mark meanwhile threatened to rise through its ERM ceiling. The mark's divergence indicator, which shows the extent to which an ERM currency nears its maximum spread against its central euro rate, was 71 per cent, just below the 75 per cent level where a currency is deemed to be out of line.

Jürgen Möller, German economics minister, raised the stakes in the litany of pre-referendum warnings by saying the ERM's survival would depend on the outcome of the vote. Like most observers in Germany, Herr Möller expects a 'Yes' vote.

Leading article, page 15

THE POUND

US dollar
 1.7435 (-0.0315)
 German mark
 2.6100 (-0.0223)
 Exchange Index
 85.5 (-0.9)
 Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
 1885.2 (+70.0)
 FT SE 100
 2567.0 (+83.1)
 New York Dow Jones
 3318.40 (+2.70)*
 Tokyo Nikkei Avge
 18166.80 (+50.26)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base, 10%;
 3-month interbank: 9.9-10%;
 3-month eligible bills: 9.9-10%;
 US: Prime Rate: 6%;
 Federal Funds: 3%;
 3-month Treasury Bills: 2.89-2.87%;
 30-year bonds: 96.1-96.1*

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
 £1.7430 £1.7405*
 DM2.6163 \$1.6100*
 Fr3.4225 2.6525*
 FF1.375*
 Yen124.85*
 \$1.619*
 ECU 0.758678 SDR 0.806885
 £1.6100 \$1.6100 £1.6100

GOLD

London Fixing:
 AM \$348.65 PM \$347.20
 Close \$348.00 350.50
 £201.00-201.50
 New York:
 Comex \$32.25-32.75*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.35/bbl (\$20.45)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.9 August 1987-100
 * Denotes midday trading price

Bosses expect output to slump further

By PATRICIA TEHAN

BRITAIN'S bosses expect manufacturing output to slump even further before the year-end. Their order books are well below normal and expectations of being able to raise prices are at their lowest level for 33 years.

Before this week's dramatic events on the foreign exchange markets, the CBI found that industrial leaders had the lowest expectations of manufacturing output since May last year.

According to the CBI's latest industrial trends survey, only 15 per cent of companies expect to increase their output in the next four months, while 29 per cent believe their output will fall.

The difference between the two, which measures the trend, gives a negative 14 per cent, compared with a nega-



Sentance: warning note

tive 12 per cent in August and a positive 1 per cent in September last year.

The survey demonstrates the tough task facing Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, as he attempts to revive the economy and restore confidence after sterling's withdrawal from the ERM.

pared with only 8 per cent that say they are higher than usual. Demand is now at its weakest level since January, with the balance of firms reporting lower order books, slipping from 52 per cent in August to 53 per cent. There is little joy either from overseas customers. Export demand is weak, with 44 per cent of firms reporting that their export order books are lower than normal and only 11 per cent saying they are unchanged.

Andrew Sentance, the CBI's economics director, said last week's events may result in lower interest rates and may improve British companies' ability to compete with overseas rivals, bringing about an increase in export orders. But he added: "There could still be turmoil and uncertainty."

The survey shows new orders well below their normal levels and little changed from August. Sixty one per cent of companies say their order books are below normal com-

petitors. On Thursday, as the punt crashed to its floor in the ERM against the mark, the central bank in Dublin pumped £1 billion, a third of its foreign exchange reserves, into the markets to shore up the price. This intervention, with talk of huge overnight rates, helped reverse the tide. Soothing words from Albert Reynolds, the prime minister, helped restore calm and the punt was soon back in its usual range.

Dealers will not forget the past few days in a hurry. "It was the most hectic week I have seen in 20 years in the market," said Nicky Hunt, head treasurer at the Bank of Ireland in London. "The punt is worth more than the pound for the first time in more than a decade and for one of the first times in history."

Letters, page 15



Chancellor had taken the view that a 5 per cent rise in interest rates would be enough to prop up the pound. He was wrong. As currency speculators seized on the punt, Irish authorities took the Lamont formula and multiplied it thousands of times, or so it seemed. If Sweden could raise overnight rates to 500 per cent, the Emerald Isle could go one better. The Irish, in their canny way, have beaten Norman Lamont at his own game. The

enormous rates began surfacing yesterday morning. Word from Frankfurt was that rates had shot up to 27,000 per cent. Callers from London helped restore calm and the punt was soon back in its usual range.

Dealers will not forget the past few days in a hurry. "It was the most hectic week I have seen in 20 years in the market," said Nicky Hunt, head treasurer at the Bank of Ireland in London. "The punt is worth more than the pound for the first time in more than a decade and for one of the first times in history."

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Disunity in Opec fails to move the price of oil

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE Opec oil cartel, which held the world to ransom in the seventies, sank into disunity yesterday as tiny Ecuador said that it wanted to leave and Iran said that it wanted to raise production in defiance of an agreement this week to maintain output for the fourth quarter of the year.

Opec prices barely moved, however. Tensions surfaced as delegates left Opec's September meeting, in Geneva, which had agreed to hold production at current levels of around 24.2 million barrels a day. North Sea Brent oil slipped 10 cents to \$20.40 yesterday. Opec avoided assigning individual quotas to members by saying that all production, apart from Kuwait's, would count in the ceiling. Kuwait is to be allowed to increase production as it recovers from the Iraqi invasion.

Ecuador, which has debts of \$13 billion and 50 per cent inflation, would like to double oil production from its present 300,000 barrels a day limit, a privilege for which it pays \$4 million in fees and travel costs. Ecuador is expected to remain a member until the November Opec meeting, and then to seek "associate" status, which would carry no fees.

Indonesia, Nigeria and Venezuela have in the past

debated whether to stay in Opec, which was founded in 1960 in Baghdad, to help developing producers get a higher price for oil.

Discontent within Opec has grown since the heady days of 1973, when the cartel managed to quadruple prices charged to the West in the wake of the Arab oil embargo during the Arab-Israeli war. But the organisation survived the war between two key members, Iran and Iraq, during the eighties. Iraq's oil has been embargoed by the UN since the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, but Opec knows it must make provision for Iraq's ultimate return to the markets.

Opec's agreement failed to appear Iran, which wanted a squeeze on supply. Saudi Arabia — which, with 8.3 million barrels a day, is Opec's biggest producer — would not agree to that.

Saudi Arabia said it would not mind a higher price if oil could maintain its long-term share of the energy market. Saudi Arabia needs that if long-term demand for its huge reserves is to be guaranteed. But smaller members, such as Ecuador, need oil income now and would prefer higher production or higher prices.

Iran said it expected production to rise to 4.5 million barrels a day from its present 4 million barrels. Iranian officials said Opec had missed a chance to achieve a price of \$21 a barrel and was plainly not serious about increasing prices. But Iran indicated it would not disrupt oil markets.

Kuwait said production would reach 1.5 million barrels a day by the end of 1992. This was its Opec quota before the Iraqi invasion. Kuwait had capacity to pump 2.5 million barrels of oil a day before the invasion.

Russia confirmed that it was doubling oil prices to 4,000 rubles a tonne, which at present rates of exchange is equivalent to \$20. The West pays this price for one barrel of oil — there are more than seven barrels in a tonne.



Looking ahead: Jack Strowger, chairman of Hornby, who says the company's order intake is satisfactory

Hornby sees first-half profits plunge

By JON ASHWORTH

HORNBY, the toy, hobby and sports boat manufacturer that makes toy train sets and Scalextric model racing cars, saw profits dive in the first half of the year as a result of weaker margins and higher borrowings.

Pre-tax profits fell from £541,000 to £158,000 in the

six months to end-June on turnover of £11.5 million (£10.3 million). Operating profits more than halved to £216,000 (£476,000). Earnings per share were 1.2p (4.2p). Hornby does not pay an interim dividend.

Jack Strowger, chairman, said: "Despite the recession,

our order intake is very satisfactory and sales continue to be ahead of the same period last year."

Demand for Hornby model trains and Scalextric sets, which together account for about 60 per cent of sales, remains strong. There has been a good level of interest in

Cassy, a doll launched earlier in the year, and a new video game, Game Genie, is selling well. Sales of Fletcher sports boats are also holding up.

Customers are placing orders later in the year in a bid to avoid over-stocking, but Hornby is hoping for a good Christmas to carry it through.

Profits blow to Liberty shares

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Liberty, the fashion retailer and wholesaler, fell 10p to 435p against a rise in the six months to August 1 on turnover of £36.4 million (£38.1 million).

Earnings per share slipped to 4.6p (5.13p) and the company has dipped into reserves to hold the interim

dividend at 1.85p. Losses on retailing, including sales from the famous Regent Street store, doubled from £564,000 to £1.1 million. Operating profits on converting and wholesaling of Liberty printed products fell to £869,000 (£1.8 million).

John Pugh, finance director, said the Regent Street store had seen a slight rise in sales. "We've seen a downturn of about 6 per cent in retailing,

more in the provinces than in London." Liberty has 14 regional shops.

Liberty's share price has fallen by nearly a third since June when Brian Myerson, the South African stakeholder, failed to achieve a boardroom shake-up.

Mr Myerson, whose Centoco Capital trading company holds 15.5 per cent of Liberty, said the results were "very disappointing".

CU stake sold by Sun Alliance

By GRAHAM SEARLENT FINANCIAL EDITOR

SUN Alliance, Britain's biggest composite insurance group, sold nearly all its 14.4 per cent shareholding in rival Commercial Union yesterday. The sale comes three years after the stake was bought in what was then assumed to be a strategic move.

Smith New Court, the securities group, placed 60 million of Sun Alliance's 63 million shares among institutional investors after what appeared to be a failed attempt to do so on Tuesday.

The shares were sold at 475p, only 10p per share above the price Sun Alliance originally paid for most of its holding. It said the proceeds of about £280 million would be used to cut bank borrowings and reinvest. CU said: "We are generally well pleased that the shares have been widely spread." Its shares were unchanged at 489p, while Sun Alliance gained 10p to 273p. The sale appears to end chances of a merger.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Profits warning sends Allen shares tumbling

SHARES in Allen fell 20p to 57p after the construction company issued a profits warning. Donald Greenhalgh, chairman and managing director, said interim profits would be "materially" lower than last year's £2.01 million pre-tax, itself down 21 per cent on 1990 interim. The board promised to hold the interim dividend at 1.65p a share.

Mr Greenhalgh said: "I believe the events of this week, with the move to a floating exchange rate, the reinstatement of a 10 per cent base rate and the likelihood of further interest rate reductions, will enable the UK economy to recover in the coming months and this will help the construction and housebuilding sectors." Directors believe the group's cashflow is conservatively valued and the balance sheet is strong, with gearing below 50 per cent. Interims will be announced on November 23.

Sheffield rises 30%

SHEFFIELD Insulations, a supplier of insulation products and services, beat depressed conditions in the building sector to raise interim profits on static turnover. But the interim dividend is held at 1.8p a share after a warning that trading is expected to remain difficult this year and next. In the six months to end-June, pre-tax profits rose to £1.3 million (£1 million) and earnings to 3.3p (2.8p) a share. Sales were unchanged at £66.8 million but operating profits reached £1.43 million (£1.2 million) after action to improve productivity.

Acsis trims losses

ACSIDIS, the nursing recruitment and sales promotion group, saw pre-tax losses narrow from £1.3 million to £285,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover was down at £8.6 million (£15.6 million) as a result of closures and disposals, which contributed to an extraordinary charge of £2.3 million in the first half of last year. The loss per share was 0.04p against a loss of 0.7p. There is no dividend (nil). The results were helped by an exchange gain of £172,000 on foreign currency borrowings, compared with a loss of £111,000.

Berry group in black

TONY BERRY, former Blue Arrow chairman, has completed his restructuring at Business Technology Group and restored it to profitability. The first half of 1992 yielded pre-tax profits of £21,000 against a loss of £154,000 last time. During the period the group sold its remaining peripheral businesses and is now focused on the sale and servicing of copying machines and other office equipment. This has been strengthened by acquisitions in the Midlands and Sheffield. Earnings are 0.75p a share but there is no dividend.

Bostrom expands

BOSTROM, the vehicle seating and specialist engineering group, is buying Palmer & Shelley, a presswork company based in Birmingham, for £900,000. It intends to fund the acquisition partly through a £350,000 placing led by Kleinwort Benson. Palmer & Shelley was the subject of a management buyout from Ford in October 1991. The company will be absorbed into Bostrom's Kab Pressings Division. Bostrom said that the recession had prevented any broadly based increase in demand for its products.

P-E International slides

P-E International, the management and computing group that includes David Bellamy's environmental consultancy among its subsidiaries, is halving its interim dividend to 1p a share after a slump in pre-tax profits to £514,000 (£1.83 million) in the six months to end-June, despite slightly higher fees of £35.5 million (£33.6 million). Net interest costs rose to £322,000 (£177,000). There was an extraordinary debit of £523,000. Earnings plunge to 1.5p a share, against 6.7p a share last time. The shares eased 2p to 52p.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	Argos	252p (+26p)	
Abbey NI	3021p (+14p)	Dixons Group	219p (+20p)
Barclays	346p (+10p)	Allied-Lyons	623p (+39p)
Hambros	236p (+22p)	Grand Met	455p (+23p)
Kleinwort Benson	261p (+20p)	JA Devenish	234p (+20p)
Lloyds	449p (+14p)	Generalis Group	346p (+16p)
Standard Char	438p (+11p)	SA Breweries	790p (+77p)
SG Warburg	475p (+29p)	Blue Circle	172p (+20p)
J. Lewis	148p (+25p)	PALL:	
Wilson Bowden	265p (+14p)	Gumtree	524p (-10p)
Courtaulds	475p (+29p)		
Rentokil	173p (+12p)	Closing Prices Page 27	

RECENT ISSUES

Starkey (100)	92	+2	TR Tech Units	1700
Broadgate Inv Trust (100)	98	-3	Throg 1000 Smrt Co Wts	11
Broadgate Warrants	33	-3		
Dartmoor Inv 1st Wts	12	+2	Yorkshire TV Wts	13
Dwyer A	19	-1		
Euro Smaller Cos	81	+1		
Euro Smaller Wts	19	-1		
Finsbury Smr Co 0 Pnf	148%	+1%	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Shirescot	495	-3	Bobby J N/P (115)	1
			Embassy Property N/P (5)	1

BASE RATE

With effect from close of business on 17 September 1992, Base Rate has been decreased from 12% to 10% per annum.



The Royal Bank of Scotland
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.
Registered Office: 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2TB.
Registered in Scotland No. 90312

Bank of Ireland Base Rate

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business on 18th September 1992 its Base Rate is decreased from 12.00% to 10.00%.



Bank of Ireland
Area Office, 36-40 High Street, Slough, Berkshire SL1 2EL



Waving encouragement: turmoil signals recovery

A TWO-DAY rise of almost 200 points in the FT-SE 100 index might suggest that all but the most nimble of investors have missed out again. But there should be little cause for despair. Although it is easy to be swept away by the kind of euphoria witnessed in equity markets over the past couple of days, reputations are being staked on the premise that share prices have embarked on a new bull phase.

If the government persists in pursuing its tight money policy, with high real interest rates, perhaps this gain is the most that can be expected in response to the withdrawal of sterling from the exchange-rate mechanism. But adherents to that view are growing fewer by the minute, and on any other basis the case for buying the market is stronger than it has been for years.

Looking 12 to 18 months ahead, as is the market's custom, the picture of unmitigated greyness has been injected with colour. There is every reason to believe that interest rates are coming down and will continue to come down for a long time to come, according to one equity strategist yesterday.

Whether base rates will have been cut to 6 per cent by next year's budget — the first of the two that have been promised — as some of the wilder speculation currently has it, or whether they are eased back a little more sedately, the message for in-

dustry seems clear. Recovery should begin here.

Sterling's devaluation, meanwhile, will have two key benefits: boosting company profits — a 10 per cent devaluation is worth 6 per cent to industry, according to UBS Phillips & Drew — and removing the key obstacle to investment by overseas funds in the UK. Those who, a week ago, could not see the FT-SE above 2,500 in the foreseeable future, are now talking of 3,000 and more by the end of next year.

Leading the upsurge are interest-sensitive stocks and big overseas earners, which

have most to gain from the devaluation. Trevor Laughton, of Kleinwort, BeNevis fund management groups such as Henderson Administration and M&G, and merchant banks such as Hambros and SG Warburg, will benefit in a lively financials sector, while there will be some decent pickings among the smaller housebuilders with YJ Lovell attractive to the braver investor.

Among retailers that will benefit from lower interest rates are Kingfisher and Stonehouse, while bargains are already being identified in the bombed-out leisure sec-

tor. Rank Organisation, with a particularly heavy debt burden, and Ladbrooke will look increasingly attractive, as will some of the better-run, smaller companies, such as Resort Hotels.

Stocks with high overseas exposure are the safer choice, their improved fortunes depending on devaluation, which has happened, as opposed to lower interest rates, which are still awaited. UBS Phillips & Drew likes BAT Industries, SmithKline Beecham, Laxmo, ICI, Guinness, Inchcape and Tomkins, all of which earn 80 per cent or more of their profits in overseas markets.

Nick Knight, at Nomura, favours BTR, Tarmac and BICC and believes they should be financed by selling expensive defensive issues such as GEC, J Sainsbury and Yorkshire Water.

Companies such as Glaxo and Unilever feature on several buy lists, including that of Goldman Sachs, which also points to Willis Corroon, Allied Colloids and Cookson as slightly less obvious beneficiaries from the currency depreciation. For those wanting a flutter on the back of the Italian devaluation, Olivetti and Benetton are picked out.

In these conditions, formulating long-term investment plans is almost impossible, but probably not necessary.

The important point about this market is to be in it — details can be worried about at a higher level.

BUSINESS PROFILE: James Hann

Sea breezes mellow an angry young man

Carol Leonard finds the chairman of Scottish Nuclear is a changed man since going north of the border

James Hann, the chairman of Scottish Nuclear, one of Britain's few remaining nationalised industries, has a long, narrow face, a high forehead, thin lips and a deep voice. As he opens his mouth to speak you expect to hear either a gruff Glaswegian twang or the more clipped Edinburgh version, but he has neither. His accent is, instead, distinguished by its soft, burr.

Hann might live in Dunbartonshire, might speak about the quality of life in Scotland with the conviction of a native, but was born in Southampton, the eldest son of a local dairyman. "I'm the one that flew the coop," he says. "My brother and sister both stayed relatively close by." Hann's reason for "flying the coop" perhaps gives a clue to the forces which have driven him since. Forces which cause his own brother to admit he does not really know him. "You never quite know what he is thinking," says Harry Hann, a Devon farmer. "Sometimes the guard will drop and you get right inside but whether or not it is because of a slight embarrassment, the defence always goes up again quite quickly. It's very difficult to get him to relax." James Hann, meanwhile, is holding court in London's Athenaeum Hotel. He appears — curiously — relaxed, confident and in command. He obviously prides himself on being quick witted and his bright blue eyes add weight to his belief. Early on he checks my Christian name and then uses it to punctuate much of his ensuing conversation. He is personable, easy to talk to, direct and in contrast to Harry's well-founded assessment, strives to be as open and honest as memory allows.

Hann, 59, has changed. The change, his brother believes, took place in the 1980s when Hann was managing director of Seaford Maritime, which serviced the offshore oil and gas industry in Aberdeen. It was a position he held for 14 years and in 1977, he was awarded a CBE for services to the UK off-shore industry. Whether that change was wrought by such

view. I was an angry young man."

The anger to which he refers had been caused, indirectly, by his father's death at the age of 49. He died intestate. Hann, then 17, abandoned his schooling at Peter Symonds School, Winchester and shelved forever his hopes of becoming a naval officer. "It was necessary for me to stop everything and run the business. I had been involved in it since I was eight or nine years old. I was press ganged into working in that business because there was a war on, and I often used to fall asleep at school."

Although there appears to be a tinge of anger from the fact that his father doggedly steered him into the business, which was after all, situated directly behind their terraced house — "You're right, my parents could have afforded something better but with a 5am start my father wanted to be able to walk straight out of his back door into



Away from it all: James Hann relaxes at his Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, home overlooking the sea with his wife Jill

the factory" — and refused to agree to an alternative career at sea, the real anger was caused by the fate of the business after his father died.

Death duties and a legal requirement for Hann to do national service meant that three years later, the business, which employed 110 people, was sold to United Dairies, now Unigate. For 18 years after his national service Hann worked for Unigate, mostly managing subsidiaries. "Everything he had worked for had gone down the drain. My grandfather had started it and my father had spent all his working life building it up for me and my brother. He was a hard man, with very strong principles and he worked like hell. He had a code of ethics which I have tried to live by." Perhaps Hann's change post-Seaford can be explained by a belief that his achievements there would finally have won his father's

praise and somehow compensated him for the demise of James Hann & Sons, the family firm.

Hann's achievements at Scottish Nuclear, which supplies more than 40 per cent of Scotland's electricity, have been no less impressive. The company made £13.7 million last year, its first net profit. Two years previously, when Hann joined the company, it had lost £189.9 million. The then chief executive was told to go and for a nine-month period Hann did both jobs. He still works a six-day week, although not all of it on Scottish Nuclear. He is a director of William Baird, the textile group, the Scottish Transport Group, which operates buses, coaches and ferries in Scotland, and a member of the council of the Scottish CBI. But what motivates him now is not clear. "There are those who go through life and simply get to the end and there are

those who go through life and make things happen. My grandfather and father were like that and that's what I'm doing too." But the question remains unanswered.

Hann can speak with missionary zeal about the needs and advantages of nuclear fuel but this cause, if it motivates him at all, is not sufficient to explain his drive. "I'm not a nuclear man, I'm a manager and a lot of concern built up about the nuclear industry is quite wrong. If you do not get mesmerised by the high tech or the prospect of gloom, you can see through to the other side. Nuclear is essentially a very fine clean way of producing electricity. We have got to sharpen up and get it right so that when it is really needed, in the 21st century, when there is a gap in the supply and demand ratio, we

will be there. Yet the government has no energy plan. I asked for it when I came here but it does not exist and that is wrong. If you try to talk to the government about energy planning, they switch off. Yes it does irritate me that the government's attitude is so cavalier."

Hann's irritation will doubtless have been expressed. He admits he can have a very sharp tongue. He has also voiced his disapproval of pay in the public sector. His £39,000 salary was raised temporarily to £59,000 when he was running the company single-handed last year. He knows he could command several times that amount in the private sector. "I do feel sorry about it," he says, particularly since this task has been so demanding. When I came into it, it was supposed to involve a couple of days a week." He mutters about the

Treasury being well aware of his views. Yet they are not so strong that he has sought employment elsewhere. "This is my main source of income," he says. He is clearly not motivated by money alone. His lifestyle, however, is comfortable.

He might wear a stainless steel watch and his boat might be an old Aberdeen harbour pilot cutter but one suspects his choice would be no different if he had all the money in the world. His home is a modern but individual four-bedroomed property with sea views, reflecting Hann's most enduring love — "The sea is an area of freedom, it is nature in the raw. I feel lonelier in the middle of London than I do on my boat in the middle of nowhere" — and he and his wife Jill, whom he married 35 years ago — "She was the nursing sister when I went into hospital to have my appendix out" — regularly holiday in the West Indies to escape the Scottish winters.

The Hanns do not, however, entertain regularly at home. "I'm a loner," he says. "I would never go to a pub. I work and I play, I enjoy a glass of wine if it is a special occasion, but I do not have an enormous circle of friends."

His brother qualifies that saying when he does entertain, he is generous, to a fault. But while Hann might be like that with his own family, he would never invite business colleagues into his home. "You need to be just a little bit removed from the people at work. Be friendly, yes, be courteous, but do not get yourself into a position where if you want to bollard them you cannot. It's the only way to operate."

Finally I ask Hann what his father might have said, if he were to see him now. "I hope he would have been proud," he begins. "Yes that does motivate me. I did not know him very well and I think every child should know his father." So has he endeavoured to ensure his own children, David, aged 32, and Sarah, 30, know him better? "Perhaps not," he says. His brother would almost certainly agree.

"I am aware now, with hindsight, that I perhaps poured more energy into Seaford than I did the family. I carried them all up to Scotland, a foreign land, and dumped them in a house. Then I went off all over the world. I was working 12 or 14 hour days. They were in bed when I went to work and in bed when I got back." Does he harbour any regrets? "Yes. I wish I was 20 years younger. What is that old saying, about youth being wasted on the young?"

WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

Norman laments a tragedy of errors — not as he or the nation likes it



Kenneth Baker, the former home secretary whose oratorical political skills could put glass on a porcupine, believes the whirlwind events of the week have brought us to a "forest clearing". Others doubtless wish that the whirlwind had done what whirlwinds are supposed to do and transported certain of the week's key players at least as far as Kansas. Perhaps if we all click our heels together over the weekend...

But I digress, not to mention stray from Mr Baker's arboreal metaphor. So let us pause in this pleasant leafy glade in what shall we call it, the Forest of Ardunby perhaps — and reflect on the extraordinary events of the past six days.

It began, as so many violent rows do, with simple disagreement. The foreign exchange markets of the world believed that the pound was not worth more than DM2.778. Mr Lamont, as had become his habit, politely replied that he was of the mind that it was. And so the saga began, as one Shakespearean sage might have liked it, with the retort courteous.

If only it had stopped there. There is virtue in "if only" — as Mr Lamont is doubtless now reflecting. But, as we all now know, it did not.

Next it was the turn of one gentleman of Rome, Guilliano Amato, the Italian prime minister. Now Signor Amato, you may recall, had been having trouble convincing the money markets that the lira was worth virtually anything at all. But on Sunday, he thought he had the solution. He would agree to devalue the lira by 7 per cent because, he said, the Bundesbank had agreed to cut its pip-squeaking interest rates by a "significant" amount.

The world waited for the German response, convinced that recovery was poised to break out all over as European interest rates were released from their Teutonic corset. But characteristically, the Bundesbank's reply was that it cut interest rates to please itself, and promptly trimmed a meagre quarter of a per cent off the

lombard rate. It was this, the quip modest (very, very modest), that cast the die.

Back in London, the disagreement escalated rapidly as Mr Lamont, despite promising "whatever is necessary", appeared to do little at all. Once again, he opined that the pound was worth at least DM2.778. Once again, the money markets demurred, rather impotently suggesting that if he thought that then his judgment must be disabled, or the modern equivalent of the bard's words, and promptly decided to explore the territory below the now infamous and historic ERM floor. The gauntlet had been thrown down. The reply curmudgeonly delivered.

It was time, if ever it had been, for the reproof valiant. The lie, if it was such, had to be laid. Well, he had a go. But as covert and then overt intervention by the Bank of England failed to revive the ailing pound, the Chancellor was left with only one option. But his two-point rise in base rates to 12 per cent was too little, too late. As for the three-point rise that followed three hours later, that merely confirmed that merit of the market's reply curmudgeonly. Madness there was

in abundance, but where was the method? As the retreats were sounded — the pound from the ERM, the exchange rate south, Mr Lamont to No 11 and interest rates to where they started, the counterchecks quarrelsome fairly few. Downing Street blamed the Bundesbank, alleging that a two-week campaign of leak and comment had undermined the value of the pound. Mr Lamont was more personal, reportedly blaming Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president for almost everything — his intransigence in Bath, the fecklessness of the bank's rate cut on Monday and most of all for his published comments that Sunday's realignment had not gone far enough.

As the prime minister moved swiftly to stop Mr Lamont turning into an air raid shelter (perhaps Mr Baker should be appointed Minister of Meteorology) so Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, moved to protect Herr Schlesinger. Monday's quarter-point rate cut was the Bundesbank's own decision, he said, and quite "in line with Herr Schlesinger's public pronouncements". But it was not

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STOCK MARKET

Shares end hectic week 200 points ahead

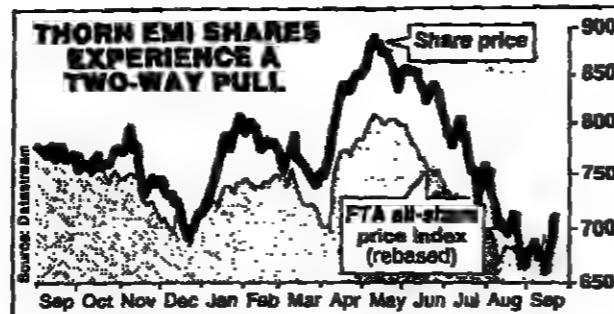
INVESTORS continued to chase share prices higher amid mounting speculation that the government will next week signal a further cut in bank base rates — possibly by as much as a percentage point, to 9 per cent.

A further £17 billion was added to share values as stock markets continued to undergo a fundamental reassessment of prospects in the wake of the devaluation of the pound. Economists and fund managers take the view that interest rates will be allowed to drift lower in the months ahead, to kick-start the economy out of recession. Some economists

forecast base rates of 8 per cent by Christmas.

The FT-SE 100 index ended the two-week account on a firm note, with a rise of 83.1 points to 2,567.0. Hectic trading saw 1.3 billion shares change hands. The rise on the week was 196.1, or 8.2 per cent.

Again it was leading shares, especially big dollar-earners, that made the running. Stock shortages provided a flurry of double-figure gains, with ICI up 32p to £1,137, Glaxo 29p at 841p, BOC Group 17p at 670p, Allied-Lyons 39p at 623p, Rank Organisation 36p at 539p, Forte 22p at 161p, Marks & Spencer 26p



at 336p and RTZ 34p at 627p.

Commercial Union closed unchanged at 489p as Sun Alliance placed the bulk of its 14.4 per cent stake in the

company. Cazenove and Smith New Court are reckoned to have jointly placed the 62 million shares with institutional clients at 475p. There were rumours this week that

Sun Alliance had been testing the market with a view to placing the shares.

Thorn EMI suffered an early mark-down, touching 680p before rallying to finish 23p stronger at 716p. The mark-down was prompted by talk of a downgrading by County NatWest. BZW was said to have countered with a buy recommendation, enabling the shares to bounce.

As soon as trading began, shares of IVS Entertainment were suspended at 184p pending an announcement. Speculation in the market centred on a bid for the company, which is due to lose

its independent television franchise at the end of this year.

Cable & Wireless climbed 24p to 583p, ahead of a series of presentations for fund managers by its Hong Kong Telecom subsidiary. The first is in London on Monday.

British Aerospace fell 10p to 189p in late trading, amid fears of substantial write-offs accompanying next week's figures.

Argyll, the supermarket chain, jumped 10p to 327p.

The company has been

merging

analysis

and

speculation

and

Pensioners and employees contributing to company schemes can sleep no more easily in their beds after the first glossy document from the pension law committee this week.

As we head towards the anniversary of the death of Robert Maxwell it looks like there will be a long wait before any firm proposals on making company pension schemes safer will be made.

The committee, headed by Roy Goode, does not expect to pronounce before late summer or autumn next year. Then, even if accepted by the government, any subsequent legislation needs parliamentary time and will be lucky to be on the statute book by the fourth anniversary of Maxwell's death and the subsequent discovery that hundreds of millions of pounds had been plundered from Mirror Group pension schemes.

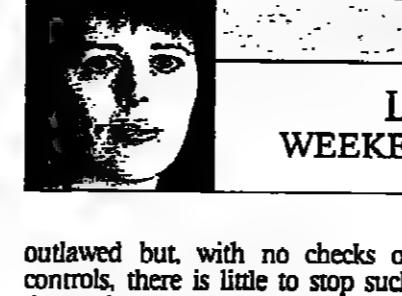
In the meantime many smaller and less dramatic pensions disasters will come to light from the wreckage of many of the companies that are failing every week. There will be little

redress for pensioners and employees in such schemes that collapse.

The government had asked in June for a report within 12 months and for urgent recommendations before that. Fat chance of that with a deadline for submissions to the committee set at the end of the year.

Back in January the National Association of Pension Funds called for a balance between member and employer trustees, plus the appointment of independent trustees. It also wants custodians unrelated to the employing company to hold assets, and regular confirmation by auditors that such assets are held and invested as stated.

It will now be next January before the Goode committee begins to review the wisdom of such suggestions. New self-investment above a five per cent limit and loans at favourable rates to companies from their pension schemes are now



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

outlawed but, with no checks or controls, there is little to stop such dodgy deals.

All the time the pension scheme members can be kept nicely in ignorance of any wrongdoing or poor investment. Actuarial valuations only have to be produced every three years.

Of course, good schemes do all this and more. Many have, however, been remiss in telling members just what a great deal they are giving staff. As a result, they have lost members to personal pensions who would have been better off with their

company schemes. That leakage is likely to continue while there is no comfort for those fearing that the boss is going to do a bunk with their retirement fund.

It is the interests of employers, pensioners and employees to get the process moving. If one of the recommendations should prove to be independent trustees or equal numbers of employee representatives, a massive training schedule should be getting under way.

Until there is more positive news, companies can help to calm nerves by providing more information.

more readily. Employees wanting personal information about future pension entitlement or transfer values can wait a long time. Such delays do not help to restore confidence in schemes. Pensions are deferred pay and if employees are to trust the custodian of the money they should feel able to find out what has happened to it.

Back to basics

It should soon become easier for people with a learning disability to take out life assurance. Negotiations have started between MENCAP City Insurance Services and 28 leading insurance companies in an attempt to challenge their reasons for refusing to insure people with a mental handicap.

Twenty-five of the companies have refused to offer life assurance and personal accident policies, but the

charity's financial services offshoot is optimistic that the others will go ahead.

There is no research to show that people with a learning disability are more accident-prone, or a greater risk to insurers, says the charity. It says the attitude of most insurers smacks of prejudice.

All types of conditions can have seemingly unfair results when it comes to insurance. Those suffering from diabetes for example, often lament that the firms offering the best deals on motor insurance will not even consider their applications.

Insurance companies, battered by storms, theft, subsidence and AIDS are not very brave at the moment. They need to return to first basics and address the risks according to official statistics. Then they can assess the individual records and conditions of applicants.

Blanket refusal to give cover does not serve the insurance industry well. It loses business and also alienates people who might be investment customers if their lives had not been deemed unworthy of cover.

Investors gamble on the cult of equities returning

Lindsay Cook reports on a week of roller coaster emotions for traders and savers alike

JUST as it looked safe to go back into equities, the new organisation to promote share ownership by small investors got the jitters and pulled its launch next week.

The ProShare Association was scheduled to launch next Wednesday but has put the event off until October because of the sterling crisis and the debate over the future of the exchange-rate mechanism.

Geoffrey Maddrell, the chief executive, said: "We are ready to launch the association for private investors/employee shareholders. However, as the UK economy is entering uncharted territory, I am convinced that we have to allow the short-term issues to be resolved."

He added that, once it was in place, the association would be able to help investors through difficult periods "such as this". He was speaking on Wednesday, when interest rates rose by 5 percentage points in one day and sterling was devalued by 10 per cent.

Mr Maddrell said it was "unrealistic to discuss long-term investment during a short-term monetary crisis."

Investors were, however, calling financial institutions for advice yesterday after Wednesday's roller coaster ride of interest rates and stockmarket gyrations.

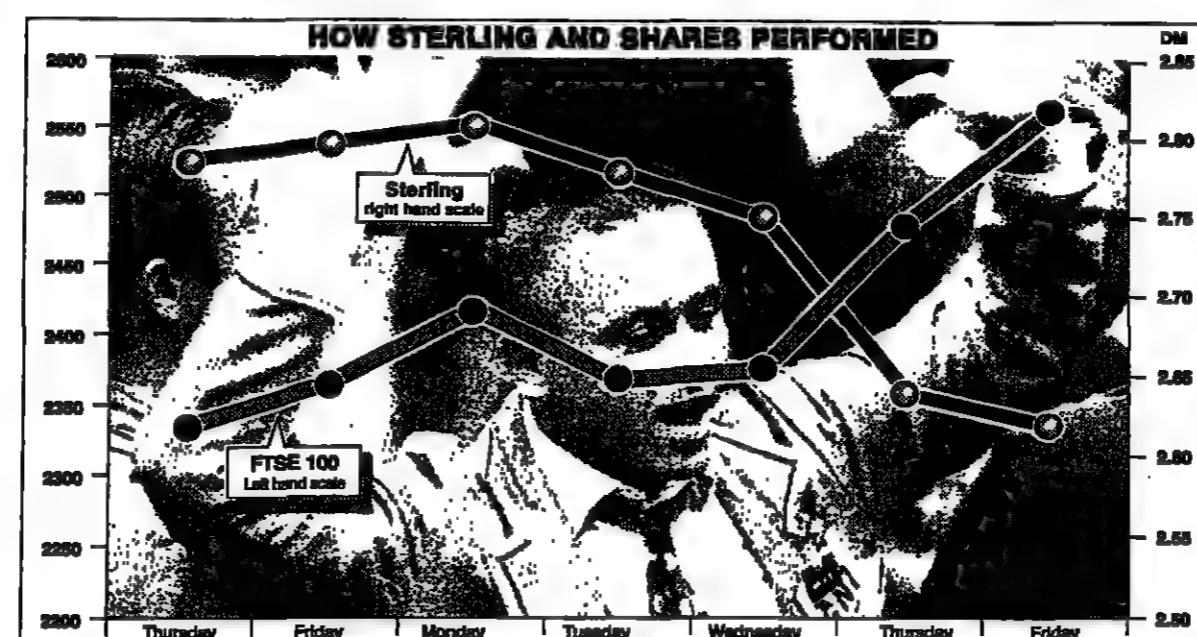
Many were still wanting to take a gamble on the dollar or mark in currency funds. Others were looking at European bond funds or seeking the certainty of fixed interest rates.

Investment houses were declaring that the day of the

equity had returned. United Kingdom share prices were cheap and with lower interest rates in prospect they were looking a good buy. Some investors had already got the message. NatWest Stockbrokers had its busiest day for two months on Thursday with people choosing to buy leading blue chip stocks with high overseas earnings.

Neil Stapley, managing director of NatWest stockbrokers, said: "Investors were choosing well-known names, good quality shares that had been knocked down recently." He expected more activity early next week as private investors tend to lag a day or two behind professionals.

Simon Walters, investment director at Save & Prosper, said: "The cult of the equity is upon us. For some time it has looked like last year's story and now it has returned. If the French say 'yes' on Sunday we will still have political



ing indicators such as buoyancy in credit card figures or housing pick up, it will go back into the exchange rate mechanism." He predicted the FTSE index would end the year at 2,750 or 2,800. After the election S & P

through collective investments such as unit trusts or investment trusts, said Mr Walters.

Fidelity has found over the last few weeks that many investors believe themselves to be instant experts on currencies.

Most have yet to move back to shares. The group's view is that interest rates will come down further in Europe and that equity investment is safest in the United Kingdom, where there is no exchange rate risk.

Mary Blair, executive director of product development, said: "Investors should look ahead for a year. If they believe that devaluing the pound is good for industry, then there is a strong argument for United Kingdom investment. There is little risk of inflationary pressures. The prospects for corporate growth have improved. The market

seems to have already discounted a 'no' vote in France. It is time for investors to sit down and look at their portfolios."

Those wanting to remain in cash are likely to find that fixed interest rates will disappear or be reduced for

new entrants soon. National Savings is offering 7.5 per cent tax-free over five years in its 38th issue savings certificate. As hopes of a rise in savings rates fade, savers may have to look to fixed rates or elsewhere if they do not want a further reduction in their income. The interest rates on building society and bank savings is likely to continue falling after two years of steady reductions.

Property prices remain in the doldrums with rental a better option in the short term for people seeking a home.

This is particularly the case in the South where the number of properties for rent has increased substantially as

people who cannot sell rent

out their homes to cover their mortgage payments.

The cost can be as low as 6

per cent of the property's value

for a year's lease. There is no

buildings insurance or repairs

to add to the cost and, even if

interest rates fall and the

market improves, there is little

risk of renters being left behind.

The first move will be to

stable prices and an easier market where properties that are priced realistically can sell quite quickly. Some time after that, when the properties currently overhanging the market have been sold, prices might move up slowly at about the same rate as inflation.

This will give those not in the market plenty of time to make their move.

People wanting to invest in property were offered insurance against higher interest rates for the first time this week by a business expansion scheme.

The tax-free scheme from Airways Housing Society has an undertaking that investors will not suffer if bank base rates rise above 10 per cent. It has deposits with Barclays Bank and, if interest rates should rise, so will the income from those deposits.

Gold, that traditional home for panicky investors, has moved up \$10 since the beginning of the month. It has fallen \$100 since the last big day of investment angst, Black Monday in October 1987.

Borrowers scramble to secure some fixed-rate peace of mind on mortgages

By LIZ DOLAN

LENDERS were swamped with appeals for fixed rate mortgages on Wednesday as anxious homeowners reacted to news of the shock 5 per cent rise in lending rates.

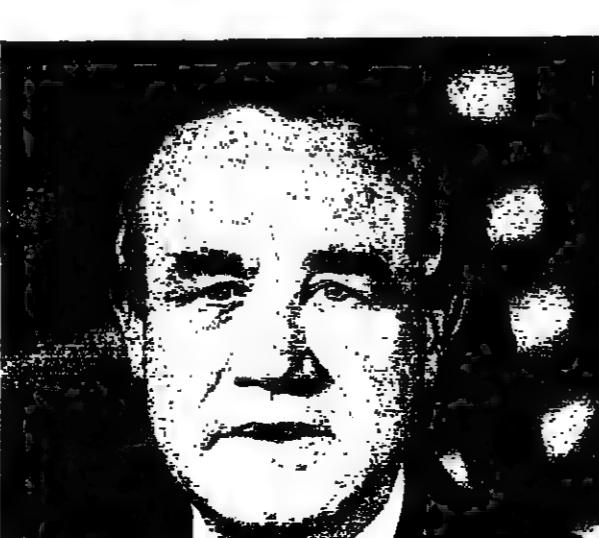
Hundreds of millions of pounds worth of fixed-rate funds were allocated a few hours after the initial announcement of a 2 per cent rate rise at 11 o'clock. News of the second rise during the afternoon intensified the panic.

Fears that mortgage rates were set to soar to a possible 15.6 per cent in a few days meant switchboards at banks and building society branches were jammed, and long queues formed at some counters.

Staff at the branches reacted with stunned amazement. An employee at a London branch of the Woolwich demanded news of the latest position with base rates. She said: "We're so busy, we don't even know what's happening out there. I'm worried about what's going to happen to my own mortgage, but I don't have time to find out."

Nationwide, the country's third biggest lender, responded to demands for more than £50 million worth of loans before it ran out of fixed-rate cash at 3 o'clock. A spokesman said the level of demand represented a seven or eightfold increase over business on a normal day. "Quite a few people rang the press office. All sorts of departments got calls," he said. "All we could tell them was to contact their own branches."

The successful applicants will now pay a fixed rate of 8.95 per cent over the next



year, rising to 9.95 per cent in the subsequent two years. Abbey National reported "an amazing response". By coincidence, it launched a new fixed-rate mortgage at 9 o'clock on Wednesday, two hours before the first lending rate rise. By 3 o'clock the offer closed on Wednesday afternoon.

John Charcol, the mortgage broker, said it had received 300 calls about fixed-rate mortgages. "That's a lot for us not being an extremely large organisation," a spokeswoman said. Barclays and National Westminster Home Loans missed the party as both had run out of fixed-rate cash before Wednesday.

Chase de Vere, the mortgage broker, promises that its 9.9 per cent offer will be available until well next Wednesday at least. Borrowers can elect to fix the rate for two, three, or five years. It may be used for all types of conventional mortgages, including straight repayment.

There are no conditional products, and the only upfront charge is a £225 fee to the lender.

The Bank of Ireland has opened its three-year, 9.95 per cent offer.

and there will be a new one shortly, but the funds for the old one have all been used."

Barclays said: "For the first time in a year, we had no fixed or capped rate mortgage on offer, because of the uncertainty. There will probably be some more money available next week, but it depends what happens over the next few days."

Most lenders are following Barclays's example and waiting for the dust to settle before re-entering the market. One said: "If the rate goes up, it may be difficult to persuade people to buy. We're waiting until things settle down."

However, some brave souls are already back in the fray.

The National Counties Building Society is offering a tiered-rate mortgage, with a choice of two time spans. The rate is fixed at 9.75 per cent until September 1993, and then at 9.95 per cent for another year, or two years, at the borrower's choice. The reservation fee is £200, and those who take up the offer must take out buildings insurance and contents or payment protection insurance through National Counties.

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There are no conditional products, and the only upfront charge is a £225 fee to the lender.

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Getting up steam on the GCR

By NICOLA COLE

THE forthcoming share issue by the Great Central Railway (GCR), which aims to raise £2 million, will arguably be the most ambitious fund-seeking scheme by any dedicated preservation company since the last regularly-scheduled steam train ran on British Rail almost 25 years ago.

Supporters are being contacted this month and the public share issue will be launched on November 12. It is also a considerable act of faith at a time when nearly all tourism attractions are experiencing falls in visitor totals, and the 40 preserved lines have had their toughest year since the mid-1970s.

The most astute "fat controllers" now accept that the viability, even survival, of preserved lines depends not only on pleasing the nation's two million enthusiasts but equally on "appealing to families choosing a day out", said Ian Winter, a GCR spokesman.

Hence the plan by the GCR, Britain's only preserved mainline steam railway (the rest are revived branches), to include facilities such as an interpretive centre, souvenir shop, restaurant and bar within its proposed period-style terminus at Leicester North.

This project alone will cost at least £800,000. A similar sum will go towards a scheme unique among preserved lines — doubling the eight miles of existing single track to Loughborough, allowing partial recreation of the original Great Central's glory days, running expresses on a network that extended from London Marylebone to Sheffield, Manchester and Grimsby. The balance of the money raised is to be used for restoration work and more facilities for passengers, who are predicted to exceed 250,000 this year.

As one of the East Midlands' leading tourist attractions, how successful will the GCR be in attracting the cash? Judging from the results of earlier share issues by other

preserved lines also operating as plc's, the railway can expect a good initial response, yet several years are likely to elapse before it raises the full £2 million.

The second issue of £1 Ordinary shares by the Bluebell Railway in East Sussex has, for instance, raised more than £300,000 in 18 months to supplement revenue from fares, filming (*Poirot, Voyage Round My Father* etc) and overnight Pullman trips.

Bernard Holden, the chairman and superintendent, views this as "quite successful, considering the recession" — but says more finance is required to further extend the six-mile line to East Grinstead and the proposed interchange station with BR (an important key to boosting profits for all such lines). The 32-year-old Bluebell increased its main income from fares by 3 per cent to £628,782 in 1991, but retained profit slid to £34,221 from £16,527 in 1990. The present season is described as "reasonable".

The Severn Valley Railway, which follows a picturesque 16-mile route between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster, last year carried 15,467 fewer passengers than in 1990. This helped turn a £100,818 profit into a £34,868 loss. But there's continuing to be "a good response" to the 1988 issue of £1 Ordinary shares: it attracted £68,837 during 1991. Shares are still being issued at par.

Meanwhile, the West Somerset Railway last year bucked national trends by not only raising its passenger total by 2 per cent to 116,513, but also more than tripling pre-tax profits to £24,197. Effective marketing and increased value for money are its watchwords. The longest of Britain's preserved lines, stretching 20 miles through old Great Western territory from Bishops Lydeard, near Taunton, to Minehead, the WSR offers unadvertised 10p Ordinary shares in minimum allotments of £50.

With all share-issuing lines, investors' "dividends" customarily comprise benefits ranging from two free return tickets annually, to complimentary admission and lifetime travel passes.

There is no established market for the shares, though dealings have been effected under Stock Exchange rules, and they are essentially more than a fun investment.

A £25 stake in the Severn Valley brings a ticket allocation worth £17.80, for example. Some investors subscribe largely for the tax relief available under the Business Expansion Scheme. But most buy their shares with no thought of financial gain but to help keep the steam heritage alive for future generations.

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Brief encounter: Great Central Railway has just eight miles of track at the moment

THE 200,000 savers and borrowers with the Heart of England Building Society are beginning to anticipate the windfall gains they will get should the society be taken over by the Bank of Edinburgh (Lindsay Cook writes).

It is the first time a non-building society has attempted to take over a building society.

Both parties are eager for the move to go ahead. They now need the sanction of the Building Societies Commission and the society's members.

The bank, set up more than two years ago with the purpose of buying smaller building societies, will need the approval of the investors and homebuyers. At least half the eligible voters must vote, and three-quarters of them must be in favour of the move.

To help to persuade the members, they will be offered a share of the £1 billion society's £45 million reserves. The amount each saver and borrower will receive will not be revealed until after a friendly action, expected next month in the High Court, between the society and bank and the commission.

This will open the way for the takeover, and whatever is offered by the bank is unlikely to be improved on by any rival suitor. Those looking to buy a building society will want the deal to go through without any problems to clear their way for future mergers.

When Abbey National became a bank in 1989, it

Heart of England savers wait for takeover

needed 20 per cent of its 4.5 million savers to vote, and 75 per cent of those to be in favour. The turnout was 60 per cent and more than 90 per cent of those were in favour.

John Wrigglesworth, of UBS Phillips & Drew, believes the

standard bonus may alienate a few big savers, but larger numbers of small savers may not bother to vote if the bonus is according to the amount in the account. A three or four per cent bonus would hardly be worth voting for, for those with £100 or less in their accounts.

Members are also likely to be offered options to buy shares. In the case of Abbey National, shares were priced at 130p and the offer was 2.7 times subscribed. That meant there was a 775 share limit per application. The shares have more than doubled in value since.

It is too late to open or top up an account at Heart of England in an attempt to get a bonus. When Abbey National converted there were some late profits. The Abbey announced in March 1988 its intention to convert the next year. It then set a cut-off date of December 31, that year for qualifying investments.

This did not allow people to invest money and get free shares, but they could open accounts for children under 18, who did not qualify for shares, and get a payment of 5 per cent of the balance at the year-end.

Heart of England and Bank of Edinburgh are likely to have set the qualifying date earlier this year to avoid similar opportunism.

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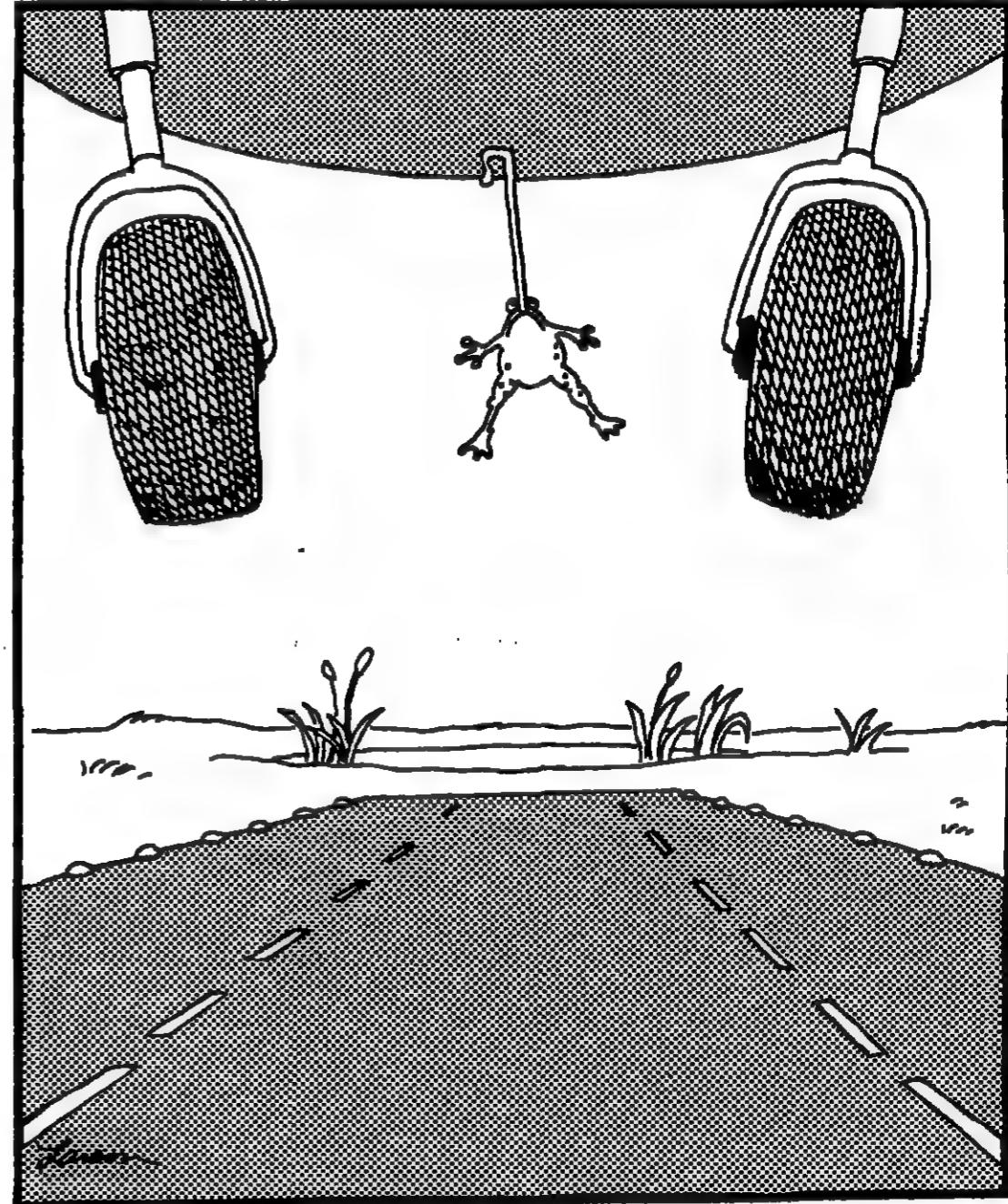
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Post your completed application form and cheque to National Savings (Premium Bonds), Freepost BJ881, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY0 1BR. Or, to ensure rapid delivery, attach a first class stamp.

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1 Do you already hold Premium Bonds? (Please tick) Yes No

If yes, please enter your Holder's Number

2 Amount in words pounds £

Minimum £100 (£10 for a child under 16). Larger amounts must be in a multiple of £10.

3 M. Surname
(Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms)
All forenames

Address in full

Postcode Date of birth
(essential for under 16s)

Day Month Year

19

4 I accept the purchase will be subject to the terms of the Series B Prospectus.

Signature Date

5 If buying for a child under 16, give name of parent/guardian:

M. Surname
(Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms)
All forenames

6 If buying for a grandchild, give name of the parent/guardian above and your own name and address below:

M. Surname
(Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms)
All forenames

Address

Postcode

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5	Compa	Leisure	
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7	Sidar	Textiles	
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9	Alstu Irish	Banks, Disc	
10	Durbin	Mining	
11	AST	Industrial	
12	T & S Stores	Drapery/Sts	
13	Aus Oil & Gas	Oil, Gas	
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17	Roper	Industrial	
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19	Bilton	Property	
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22	Vardy (Reg)	Motors/Air	
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26	Hest C E	Insurance	
27	Lon Forcings	Finance, Land	
28	Baynes (Charles)	Industrial	
29	MTM	Chem, Plas	
30	Bradford	Property	
31	Buffets	Mining	
32	Eldridge P A	Breweries	
33	Hambro Crown	Property	
34	Northern Elec	Electricity	
35	TT Group	Industrial	
36	Brake Bros	Foods	
37	Domino	Electrical	
38	Bulb Resources	Oil, Gas	
39	Leigh	Chem, Plas	
40	Savills	Property	
41	Queens Moat	Hotels, Ctr	
42	Countrywide	Building/Rds	
43	CRT Opt	Textiles	
44	Templin Girth	Finance, Land	
45	Times Newspapers Ltd	Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld Div P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP					
312 245) Abertay N	302	195	49	104	110
188 142) Abertay N	302	195	0	0	110
197 100) Abertay N	302	195	0	0	104
272 200) Bankers Trust	243	195	0	0	104
140 140) Bankers Trust	243	195	0	0	104
124 80) Bankers Trust	127	100	0	0	104
215 215) Barclays	215	170	0	0	104
214 140) Brown, Boveri	140	110	0	0	104
213 140) Brown, Boveri	140	110	0	0	104
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Course work in the exam debate

Should accountants adopt popular methods to go modern?
Edward Fennell considers arguments that worry the profession

Qualifications attract controversy the way politicians attract scandal. Media mileage can be gained by exposing supposed cover-ups and conspiracies. The recent disputes about GCSEs and A levels are the latest examples but even the Institute of Chartered Accountants has had its share of wrangling. In particular, the argument about "quotas" continues to rumble. The institute is accused of deciding in advance to allow only a certain percentage of candidates to pass its exams. The institute has always denied the charge and there is no significant evidence for it. Of course, for those disappointed with today's results a conspiracy theory has its attractions.

However, although the institute can feel confident about its present arrangements, there are developments that are worrying it. To maintain the prestige of its qualifications the institute must ensure that they embody high standards, are consistent, and continue to serve the profession's needs. At the same time it must keep in step with developments elsewhere in the qualification field.

Curiously enough, the recent GCSE debate sets the scene. The inclusion of "course work" in GCSE has stirred up a hornet's nest but it represents a common trend in qualifications. Professional examining bodies of all types, including the institute, are under pressure to adopt a system in which day-to-day work is assessed for qualifications. After all, it could be legitimately claimed that an individual's performance on "real work" is a better guide to competence.

So the institute has conducted a study to see whether course work, or "work-based assessment", as it is called, could be incorporated into its qualification system. The outcome of the study, just released, is likely to satisfy nobody. On the one hand, the study shows that work-based assessment is feasible. On the other, it emphasises, like the schools inspectors over GCSE, that there are difficulties in ensuring the consistency of the exam room.

The problem is how to monitor the assessors. Already the institute has a system of approving training officers so that trainees receive proper supervision and education. It is a short step from supervision to

assessment, some say, and there is no reason why they should not gain some of their qualification as well as work experience "on the job".

Education and training standards, however, inevitably vary from firm to firm and if assessment standards vary too, qualifications could fall into disrepute.

The drive to ensure that the institute modernises its awards without compromising quality will continue. For example, "standards of competence" for accountants have now been defined in detail. Paul Masters, the training partner at Price Waterhouse and the chairman of the institute's qualifications steering group, says it is now a question of how these standards can be incorporated into the present exam-based system.

Within the past week a new set of guidelines on work experience for trainees has been published. This is not some pettifogging bureaucratic detail. Areas of experience that would not have been admitted in the past are now being given status as important parts of the accountant's work. This

reflects changes in the accountant's role and the real world of the economy in which we live.

Most important is that for the first time insolvency work has been endorsed as a suitable area of work experience. When insolvency was a minor activity it could, perhaps, be ignored. Today it is so important to disregard and time spent on

liquidations, receiverships and putting companies into administration will now count towards work experience.

On a positive note, the institute has decided to give full weight to time spent on information technology. Advanced computer systems are the indispensable tool of the trade and providing IT services for

clients is now a vital skill. The other important change being introduced is that for the first time the institute is laying down minimum periods of time for key areas.

Various routes have been specified but what is likely to attract plenty of comment is that a minimum of just 20 weeks' accounting and audit experience is

being required in the whole training period. "I think that people will express amazement that in their training to be chartered accountants only 20 weeks of accountancy and auditing experience is mandatory," says Phil Armitage, who looks after the institute's education policy. "But in the past we had no minimum period at all."



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Injured Newmarket-based jockey confidently expects to receive green light at Nottingham on Monday

Swinburn bounces back for weekend gallop on Marling

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

WALTER Swinburn yesterday rode a horse for the first time in a month, and then spoke confidently of partnering Marling in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot next Saturday.

After being sidelined with concussion, due to a bizarre late-night incident outside a nightclub on August 22, Swinburn partnered two of Alex Scott's string on the Newmarket gallops yesterday morning.

The big-race jockey said afterwards: "It's like riding six winners in a day. Obviously I am a bit rusty but things will get better when I start race riding. Basically, the green light is there. I hope to ride at Nottingham on Monday."

The fear that his riding career may have been brought to a premature end, due to being knocked to the ground, was live in Swinburn's mind. A brain scan last Friday finally set his mind at rest and he waited until yesterday to return to the saddle.



Swinburn: long journey rewarded with double

"I feel two stone better. I have been taking lots of tablets and medicine over the last month and this is the best remedy of all."

Swinburn, who has partnered Marling to most of her successes, will ride out Geoff Wragg's filly this morning.

Wragg confirmed at Ayr: "I

understand Walter rode work this morning and there were no ill effects. He rides Marling tomorrow and, hopefully, at Ascot."

The Newmarket trainer was out of luck on the second day of the Western meeting where runners had to confront gluepot conditions.

White Shadow is already crying out for seven furlongs and her abundance of stamina proved crucial in the day's feature race, the Shadow Stud Firth of Clyde Stakes, as the Roger Charlton-trained filly won down the front-running Yakin in the final 50 yards.

"She's tough and just does enough. She probably wants seven furlongs now and Pat Eddery says the ground was a bit soft for her. She's progressing but that might be enough for the year. She's had some tough races," Charlton said.

Summering, the pride and joy of your humble correspondent, patiently failed to cope with the conditions and will have to hope for a dry autumn.

White Shadow's victory was

the first leg of a memorable double for Charlton, whose long journey north was amply rewarded when Eclipse defied 9st 1lb in the Ladbrokes Ayshire Handicap.

Eclipse is owned by Jeremy Tree, whom Charlton succeeded as master of Bexhillham three years ago. Charlton's success continued his excellent strike rate this season, which is second to that of Henry Cecil.

"Jeremy virtually created me and has done everything for me. He is the most perfect person and it is a great thrill to train a winner for him. It means more than all the rest."

Charlton persuaded Tree to buy Eclipse when Stavros Niarchos reduced his racing string last season. "I thought she was unlucky last year and persuaded Tree to buy her for £24,000. I thought she was always going to be worth that. She's very well bred and closely related to Sangamore, and will be a nice filly to send to the Breeders' Cup."

Later in the day, Roger Charlton saddles Matador (Caution) in the Listed Prix de Normandie (12f). Matador, who won the Old Newton Cup at Haydock in July, has eight trials. The best of these looks to be Alafada and Northern Park.

All eyes on Arazi at Longchamp

ARAzi (Steve Cauthen) makes his long-awaited reappearance for Charlton tomorrow and, hopefully, at Ascot.

He faces four opponents, one of which is his pacemaker Akito, who was supplemented earlier.

His latest success, a length-

Talented Drum Taps to take command in Irish St Leger

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

THE final declaration for the Jefferson Smurfit Memorial Irish St Leger at the Curragh today bears a very lopsided appearance, with eight overseas challengers against just four local hopes.

However, the raiding party has been weakened considerably with three defections yesterday, the 1989 Doncaster St Leger winner, Michelozzo, who injured himself, the Ibn Hay Geoffrey Free Stakes winner, Shambo, an absentee because of the ground, and the re-routing to Italy by Andore Fabre de Modish.

Even so, the top five in the betting market are all British-trained with Mashaallah holding the edge over Drum Taps.

Mashaallah started the season in handicap company but has made substantial progress in the intervening months and is now a continental dual group one winner.

His latest success, a length-and-a-half victory of Platini in the Grosser Preis von Baden prompted his rider, John Reid, to predict that he would win the Irish St Leger.

I believe that Reid may upset his own prediction that he has been asked to substitute for Lanfranco Dettori on Drum Taps.

The six-year-old has proved himself to be a splendidly brave campaigner on both sides of the Atlantic, and he comes here as the first Ascot Gold Cup winner ever to compete in an Irish classic.

I am prepared to excuse his Deauville failure to give 10lb to Sought Out in the Prix Kergorlay as the ground at Deauville was bottomless.

Rock Hopper, the mount of Pat Eddery, won the Hardwicke Stakes at Royal Ascot but pulled up sore when beaten by Shambo at Newbury. If he stays today's trip, he must also go well.

Three-year-old fillies have won three of the last five runnings of the Irish St Leger and the only home-trained runner to merit serious thought is Arkikala.

She is not the most consistent of fillies and flopped behind Market Booster in the Meld Stakes, but previously had been unlucky behind User Friendly in the Kilmainham Stud Irish Oaks.

Bearing in mind the ease with which User Friendly won the Doncaster equivalent last Saturday, Arkikala would be guaranteed to run a big race if caught in the same mood today. However, for sheer consistency and durability, it is difficult to get away from Drum Taps.

Fatherland has proved himself the best of the early two-year-olds to emerge from Ballydoyle, and comes to the Smurfit National Stakes unbeaten after three outings.

The Newmarket trainer

Robert Armstrong sends a strong challenger in Maroof,

who set a juvenile course record when beating Human at Goodwood. However, the ground here will be much softer and it may be unwise to oppose Fatherland.

TV: BBC1: 3.15. CHANNEL 4: 3.15, 3.55.
GOING: YIELDING TO SOFT

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

3.15 SMURFIT NATIONAL STAKES (2YO-Q: 103,600; 70) (5 runners)

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ATHLETICS

Ethiopian takes gold after blow in the back

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN SEOUL

AFRICA was at the centre of another 10,000 metres controversy yesterday, only six weeks after the Khalid Skah incident at the Barcelona Olympics. Josphat Machuka, of Kenya, was disqualified from the silver medal at the world junior championships here after he punched his rival for gold, Halle Gsilase, of Ethiopia, in the home straight.

Gsilase was struck forcefully on the back of the neck only metres from the finish, though he maintained his balance. In the same way that the Monjuic stadium had been in uproar over the assistance given to Skah by Hamroun Boutayeb, his Moroccan compatriot, to defeat Kenya's Richard Chelimo, spectators here jeered and whistled as Machuka's blow was replayed on the giant screen.

Machuka had dominated

the race, opening a gap of 80 metres, only to be rejoined by Gsilase with four laps to go. Not until the final 250 metres did the Ethiopian attempt to lead and Machuka resisted the challenge all the way. His national team manager, Fesha Ngiye, apologised to the Ethiopian athlete in the tunnel beneath the stadium.

Machuka alleged that Gsilase impeded him, but action replays showed no evidence of such an offence.

Machuka's team-mate, Josphat Ndeti, was promoted to second place. 43 seconds behind Gsilase's championship record of 28min 03.99secs.

It was the second disastrous episode of the day — Deon Minor, the impressive winner of the men's 400 metres in 45.75sec, blew bubble gum throughout the medal ceremony while the United States national anthem played.

Minor even ran with the gum in his mouth. "Every time I run the 400 I chew bubble gum because it keeps me calm," he said. But bubbles through the medal cere-

mony? "I am young and it is something I have got to learn," he added.

Aged 19, he cannot complain at the help he is receiving, training with Michael Johnson in Waco, Texas, and sharing Johnson's coach, Clyde Hart.

Britain's two finalists, Carl Southam and Guy Bullock, were fifth and seventh. Bullock, the youngest finalist at 16, is eligible for these under-20 championships in 1994.

Neil Winter was unfortunate with his third attempt at 5.40 metres in the pole vault, knocking the bar off with his chest on the way down. At that height Daniel Marti, of Spain, took the silver and Okkert Brits, of South Africa, the bronze. Laurent Looije, of Holland, cleared 5.45 for victory, with Winter fourth with 5.30.

So Britain's juniors are struggling to match their senior medal count at the Olympics. With three days gone and two to go, only Darren Campbell's silver in the 100 metres has troubled the scorers. However, more medals should follow over the weekend, with Paula Radcliffe (3,000 metres), Steve Smith (high jump) and Campbell (200 metres) glimping gold.

Neil Owen was disappointed to finish sixth in the 110 metres hurdles. He had been among the most impressive qualifiers but now could manage only 14.35sec.

The gold went to Yevgeny Pechenkin, of the Unified Team, who 20 minutes later was found smoking in the corridor. Does anyone know a gum-sucking smoker who wants to run for Britain?

Simon Fairbrother, the ninth-ranked British 1,500 metre runner this year but UK champion in 1991, is to replace Mathew Yates in the team for the World Cup in Havana next weekend.

Iro arrived at Headingley yesterday, the bearer of bad

Results, page 37



The Beast Iro, the feared New Zealander, settles into new surroundings at Headingley yesterday

Leeds look to Iro to spark recovery

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THERE are few more intimidating sights than "The Beast", in full flight. Kevin Iro is an untamed spirit, whose predatory instinct can ignite "like all the fireworks going off on bonfire night", says Doug Laughton, his new keeper at Headingley, or merely flicker and die.

He is always absorbing, often inspirational, but infuriating in equal measure. Either way, Iro is nothing if not entertaining. Give him the ball, and the chances are that he will drop it, or score. Leeds are not known for half measures, or low stakes for that matter. Gambling has become habitual, and the odds on their latest New Zealand import restoring lost fortunes could hardly be described as the surest.

Iro arrived at Headingley yesterday, the bearer of bad

tidings. Officials were under the impression that he had recovered from an ankle ligaments injury. They now learn that he is unlikely to play for at least a fortnight. Strains and niggles hampered Iro's two seasons at Manly-Warringah, where critics said his attacking prowess was effectively tamed by the Australian emphasis on defence.

At the start of a two-year contract, Leeds are trusting that the greater freedoms inherent in the game here will provide the necessary stimulus. "The English league is a lot more open. In Australia, it's a very stereotyped defensive game. Here, the chances to attack are much higher," Iro said.

In three seasons in the centre at Wigan, alongside his brother Tony, the 6ft 2in Iro haunted defences, scoring 60 touchdowns in 100 appearances, but creating infinitely

more. His try-scoring feats at Wembley are legend. In the first three of his four victorious Challenge Cup appearances, he scored two tries on each occasion.

Laughton was in no doubt yesterday about the quality of his fourteenth, piece slotted into the Leeds jigsaw at a cost of £1 million in 18 months. "He's a class act who has proved himself in the English game. He's a giant of a man, who scores tries, and makes the ball available. They always say good big 'un' beat good little 'uns' he said.

Iro is Laughton's fourth Wigan convert after Elley Hanley, Andy Gregory and Andy Goodway — reasons enough for him to move to Leeds. But while the others are in their thirties, with their best years behind them, Iro, at 24, is ideally placed to develop the early form that made him New Zealand's

player of the year in 1988, a year after scoring a record 20 points on his international debut against Papua New Guinea.

He remains, however, as bad back on the pitch as he appears off it. Iro is not a hunter of possession, purely a master with it. The ball is met at pace, which can result in spills, but if safely gathered in, the 16 stones and ferocious fend knocks most opponents from his path, by which point he can be a yard or more clear.

After an ill-started beginning to the season, Leeds require a swift recovery of Iro, who may find his work in the backs having to compensate for the lack of power in the pack, but alongside Craig Innes, the former All Black, and with Gary Schofield's distribution, opponents are likely to discover the true nature of "The Beast".

Leeds have rejected the option of an evening kick-

BASKETBALL

Curb to help dethrone Kings

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

IF NOTHING else, the salary cap regulations endorsed by the first division clubs last weekend might be for the benefit of the Carisbrooke Kings during the season which starts tomorrow. Guildford, the champions for the past three seasons under the guise of Kingston, will undoubtedly suffer by having to sit out two players each game and that will appear the great majority which has been crying out for someone to challenge Kevin Cudie's squad.

Somewhat predictably, Cudie, the Kings' coach, was not overjoyed to hear of the salary cap restrictions which vary from £72,000 to £90,000 a club. "We are trying to build something successful and all we get is the negative reaction of people who are jealous of our success," he said after the dramatic 154-153 aggregate success over Kaleb Tallin in the preliminary round of the European Cup at Crystal Palace on Thursday. "This doesn't make sense because we want the fans to see better basketball."

Other clubs might now stand a better chance in the domestic game, but by having two players that much fresher for the intensive programme to come in Europe should they



Cunningham: new club

CYCLING

Uphill battle for Bray

SIMON Bray cannot expect an easy debut as Britain's amateur road race champion in the 106-mile EIS Solihull classic tomorrow (Peter Bryant writes). The quality of the field will be higher than that in last Sunday's title race.

Most of Britain's internationals, including Wayne Randle and Mark McKay, are back from overseas, and Steve Farrell, who was relegated to runner-up in the national championship, is thirsting for revenge over Bray.

Jahangir, out of the game with back problems since March and split from his coach, Rahmat Khan, plays Peter Marshall, the British champion, in the second round, and then probably Simon Parke of Yorkshire.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

3.00 unless stated
Premier League
Aston Villa v Liverpool
Bolton v Crystal Palace
Middlesbrough v West Ham
Oxford United v Ipswich
Preston v Middlesbrough
Sheffield United v Arsenal
Southampton v Leeds

(all ticketed)

Third division

Barrow v Blackpool

Bury v Blackpool

Wimbledon v Blackpool

Northfield v Salisbury

Heaton v Bournemouth

Pool v Birmingham

Stoke v Birmingham

Walsall v Birmingham

Wrexham v Bury

Wrexham v Oldham

Wrexham v Shrewsbury

Wrexham v Yeovil

Wrexham v Yeovil

Wrexham v York

Wrexham v York

Wrexham v York

Third division

Barnet v Hereford

Cardiff v Gillingham

Cheltenham v Gillingham

Colchester v Gillingham

Exeter v Gillingham

Fleetwood v Gillingham

Grimsby v Gillingham

Leeds v Gillingham

Lincoln v Gillingham

Morecambe v Gillingham

Portsmouth v Gillingham

Shrewsbury v Gillingham

Southend v Gillingham

Stoke v Gillingham

Walsall v Gillingham

Wrexham v Gillingham

Third division

Barnet v Borehamwood

Borehamwood v Barnet

Borehamwood v Borehamwood

The fear factor enters club rugby

Bath remain team to beat as clubs battle for survival

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE battle of competitive dice will be heard up and down England today, as Courage Clubs Championship, Pilkington Cup and Provincial Insurance Cup whirr into action for the first time this season. By the time April arrives, it will have become, for some, a death battle in the most intense season of competition the country has known.

The investment that amateur rugby clubs now make in the game, in terms of time, expertise and money, is hard to quantify. Those that exist for old-style administrators have been amply illustrated by events at Bath this week, while a leading club administrator in the Midlands proffers the view that this season will see the demise of the traditional club official.

In the top flight the stakes are high. Clubs who have refurbished their grounds and playing squads, and attracted new sponsors upon whom they will have an increasing dependency, dread the possibility of relegation and decreasing crowds. Yet the streamlining of the national leagues at the end of this season ensures that some famous names must go down.

Next season the adoption of home-and-away in the nat-

ional leagues means divisions of ten clubs each rather than 13. Thus four clubs descend from the first division, seven from the second and eight from the third into a new fourth division.

Put the players and referees as they grapple with the new laws in this atmosphere. "Problems come with the ball on the ground and that is where we will have the biggest difficulty," Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, said. Referees will find themselves allowing more time for possession to be won from loose play.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has written to its top ten referees stressing particular aspects of law, including release of the ball in the tackle and the need for the tackle to roll away if he can. "Players must be acutely aware of the laws and what the referees interpret as a 'maul,'" Don Rutherford, the RFU technical director, said. "Referees must take to players so that they can run in what is required."

Andy Robinson, captain for the second season of Bath, the league champions, appreciates the problem for officials. "The ones I have talked to are worried about the new laws and have to discover how they will work," he said. But he and

his colleagues will make their own adaptations. "We can go even further; the new laws suit us," Robinson said.

Both Bath and their opponents today, Harlequins, will be pragmatic in their approach to selection, which may cause an eyebrow to be lifted in some quarters. There is a belief that Harlequins are far too ready to trim their XV to suit the requirements of their international players, thus cheapening league results.

Jamie Salmon, the Harlequins director of coaching, has laid down the principle of selection on form; Robinson has no worries in that respect because he believes the reserves Bath have will create the pressure on first-choice players to perform.

Bath's reserve back row, for example, consists of John Hall, David Egerton and Gareth Adams, the first two senior internationals, the last an Under-21 cap. "The only time we haven't won anything in the last eight years is 1988 and no one wants to be a member of the Bath team that starts losing," said Robinson, who will miss today's match with a hamstring injury.

"Harlequins were the best side we played last year [the two clubs shared a league draw and Bath won an epic Pilkington Cup final in extra time]. Both games were played at international pace.

"You have to be wary of Northampton, while I wonder how Harlequins will adapt to the new laws. I was impressed with the way Leicester played against England and it looked to me as though having Dean Richards in the second row was a bonus."

But do not hasten to bet against Bath. Gareth Chilcott, who denied yesterday that he was in line for the vacant chairman's post, is playing pantomime in Bath this Christmas, and though his role in *Cinderella* is that of the money-lender, the prop may yet have access to the fairy godmother's magic wand.

GORDONS" — although the changed understanding of the adjective has caused some grief to Randwick who have had to apologise to Sydney's homosexual community for innuendo contained on television signs in their club dressing room.

Tony Jorden, the former England full back, has succeeded Graham Smith as the London Division's chairman of selectors. Smith has his hands full as manager of England B, so Jorden will manage and coach London, with Phil Keith-Roach, of Rosslyn Park, as his assistant.

Traditionally called the "Gay

Three in waiting game

THREE international squads will be chosen over the next three days: Australia's touring party to Ireland and Wales, Ireland's to train next weekend in preparation for the international with the Wallabies on October 31 and an extended Welsh squad for matches against the North of England, Italy and Australia (David Hands writes).

Australia's party of 30 will be named after today's grand finals in Sydney and Brisbane: Randwick contest their sixteenth consecutive Sydney final, against Gordon, traditionally called the "Gay

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GORDONS" — although the changed understanding of the adjective has caused some grief to Randwick who have had to apologise to Sydney's homosexual community for innuendo contained on television signs in their club dressing room.

Tony Jorden, the former England full back, has succeeded Graham Smith as the London Division's chairman of selectors. Smith has his hands full as manager of England B, so Jorden will manage and coach London, with Phil Keith-Roach, of Rosslyn Park, as his assistant.

Traditionally called the "Gay

Three in waiting game

GORDONS" — although the changed understanding of the adjective has caused some grief to Randwick who have had to apologise to Sydney's homosexual community for innuendo contained on television signs in their club dressing room.

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THE TIMES SPORT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19 1992

Mexican in charge at Wembley



Blatter: campaigning

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ZURICH

IN A move to broaden the experience of international football referees, Arturo Brizio Carter, 36, of Mexico, will be in charge of England's World Cup group qualifying match against Norway at Wembley on October 14.

This is part of a campaign announced yesterday by Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, the world governing body, for an exchange of their best referees for use in regional competition.

Europe has predominantly

provided the best referees over the years, and the other four continents have resisted the import of European officials for their matches on the basis that it demeaned their own.

To counteract this, Fifa is exporting the referees of all continents. Ali Buijsam, of the United Arab Emirates, for example, will referee the World Cup qualifying match between Turkey and San Marino on October 28. Neji Jouioui, from Tunisia, will control Cyprus v Romania and Luigi Pairetti, of Italy, will

Fifa considers case, page 37

control Tunisia v Benin. The Gulf Cup in the Middle East will have six referees from Asia, seven from Africa and two from Europe.

Fifa is concerned with the inadequate standard of refereeing, and is undertaking a training programme to reduce the average age of referees — 45 years is the maximum age for the 1994 World Cup finals — and also to introduce professional referees for the largest commercial competitions.

Support scheme will go ahead

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE government remains committed to introducing its annual £7 million "Sportsmatch" scheme for the grassroots of British sport, despite a postponement of its launch next week because of Treasury cutbacks.

Robert Key, minister in the national heritage department, said yesterday: "We had to postpone the launch until after the public spending round. It would have been quite irresponsible to do otherwise. However, it is still on the agenda. There is no lack of

enthusiasm." Through the scheme, the government would each year match every pound given by business to community sport with a pound of tax-payers' money. From each sector, there would be up to £3 million in England, £350,000 in Scotland and £175,000 in Wales. The money would go towards projects like improving local sports centres and playing-fields.

However, the organisers in England, the Institute of Sports Sponsorship (ISS),

were told last month that "Sportsmatch" would have to be delayed, because of uncertainty over the amount of money they would have at their disposal next year. Although the money for this year still remains available, the Treasury declined to make any commitment for next year and the government did not want to begin the scheme in 1992, with the possibility that there would be a lack of money in future.

The ISS has said that it has a large number of companies

from both industry and business, ready to participate in "Sportsmatch". The scheme was the one imaginative innovation in the government's *Review of Sport*, carried out by Robert Atkins, the former Minister for Sport. In their General Election Manifesto, the Conservatives promised: "We will set up a new business sponsorship for sport scheme."

The government would be severely criticised by Labour, if it were to cancel the scheme to control spending.

Formula One champion confirms move

Mansell agrees £3m deal with Indy Car team

BY NORMAN HOWELL

NIGEL Mansell, the Formula One world motor racing champion, confirmed yesterday that he has signed with the Newman-Haas team to race in the Indy Car World Series in the United States next year.

The deal is believed to be worth around £3 million to Mansell — slightly less than the final offer the Briton rejected from the Williams-Renault team last week. But he can top that up with huge potential earnings from private sponsorships, personal appearances and extra prize-money if he manages to repeat his success in the United States.

Mansell, 39, who announced his retirement from Formula One racing before the Italian grand prix in Monza last Sunday, will compete in his first race for the American team on March 21 next year, at Surfers' Paradise on Australia's Gold Coast — the only Indy race that takes place outside North America.

Mansell said he is relishing the opportunity. "Indy Car racing is a wonderful new challenge for me," he said yesterday. "I've seen quite a few races on television and the competition clearly is good."

"Newman-Haas is one of the few teams in the world that I would consider racing with. They have achieved every-

thing they have set out to do. They are winners."

Confirmation of Mansell's move after 12 years on the grand prix circuit came in a statement from the Newman-Haas team's headquarters in Lincolnshire, Illinois. Paul Newman, the actor, and Carl Haas, co-owners of the team, expressed their delight.

"I did not think it was going to happen," Haas said. "Only when he became unhappy with his team did we start talking. But we had no agreement when he retired in Monza."

"His aggressive style is sure to please the American fans, and his presence will give Indy Car racing a whole new following in Europe."

The Newman-Haas team is one of the most successful in Indy Car racing. Since its formation in 1983 it has won 36 Indy Car races and taken 44 pole positions.

After completing the 1992 season — there are three grands prix to go — Mansell will take a break, and start testing with Newman-Haas at the end of December.

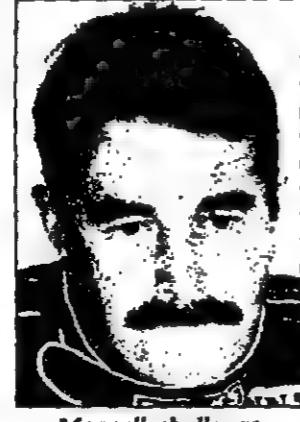
Mansell, whose championship success this year followed three previous disappointments when he finished runner-up, is the first reigning Formula One champion to switch to Indy Car racing full-time. His team-mate will be the veteran American driver, Mario Andretti.

Andretti, 52, won the Formula One title in 1978 for Lotus. He has since won the Indy series four times. Mansell began his Formula One career alongside Andretti at Lotus in the 1980 Austrian grand prix.

With 33 cars on the starting grid as opposed to 26 in Formula One, oval tracks, obligatory fuel stops and heavier — and much faster — cars, Indy Car racing is reported to be much more dangerous, but Haas said the risks had been "somewhat exaggerated".

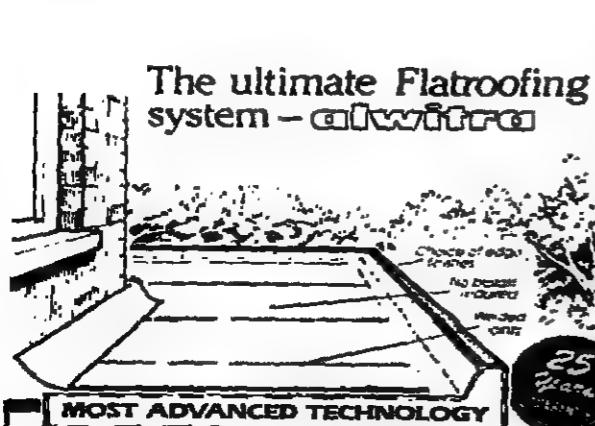
"It is dangerous, but with the right team and the right approach, Mansell, who is a great racer, will do very well," Haas said.

Tough circuit, page 36

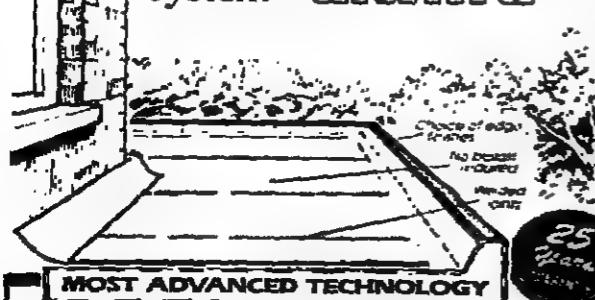


Mansell: challenge

Flatroof problems solved



The ultimate Flatroofing system — **alwitra**



Marathon wait for all he won

Who is Britain's sportsman of the year? Nigel Mansell, Linford Christie, Nick Faldo? No argument about South Korea's. Discussion stopped, I am informed by Kim Gibson, a sportswriter here, the minute that Hwang Young-cho won the Olympic marathon.

If you want to upset a Japanese, just shout "Hwang" at him, like we used to shout 4-2 at Germans. Hwang settled an old score against Japan by denying them the marathon gold medal. Japan's man was second.

In 1936, Korea's John Kee-chung won the Olympic marathon but, because of Japanese occupation of his country, he was forced to run with a Japanese name and under a Japanese flag.

On Wednesday, a committee of seven was formed to make sure Hwang retains his Olympic title in 1996. Representatives of government and the Korean athletic federation are among them. Thus Hwang must keep at it, and cannot lay his hands on all that won him won.

Hi Sung-bong, sports reporter with the Hankyoreh Shinmun, says Hwang is some 300 million won (about £200,000) better off, but, thanks to the anachronistic trust fund rule in so-called amateur athletics, he cannot have it until he retires. Now his retirement will be a committee decision.

Thriving times

Sport in Seoul is continuing to feel the benefit of hosting the Olympics. With £2 million in profits given to the Korean Olympic Sports Promotion Foundation, two more large facilities are under construction and all the Olympic venues are said to be in heavy use.

Memories of '88

Long finger-nails are still evident in the Olympic stadium in Seoul, but whether or not drugs are out, we do not yet know.

The clawed and the flawed of 1988. Flo-Jo (Griffiths-Joyner) and Ben Johnson, provided from here stories of international interest which Barcelona could not match four years later.

In the most important 100 metres races in the stadium since then, to decide the

DAVID POWELL IN SEOUL

bedsheet. And I used a brownie handbook to make sure I got the colours and design just right.

For all the facilities in this capital city of 11 million people you cannot get on one of the 50 golf courses unless you pay £55 for a round.

Provided you can afford the £22,000 life membership — and upwards — first, golf tops the league of the most expensive sports to play.

world junior titles on Thursday, the women's gold medal was won by Nicole Mitchell, of Jamaica, and her two-inch fingernails.

The more I copy Flo-Jo, the better I feel," Mitchell said in her moment of triumph.

Anyone copying Ben? Who knows?

After all, Jason Livingston was second at the world junior championships last time round.

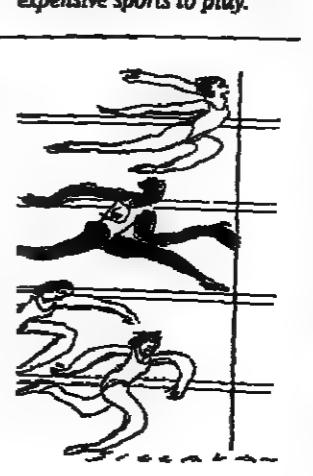
Drug test results will not be known until next week.

Working your way to the top

How about this as a way to make football's promotion play-offs fairer? It would silence those who say that the team which finishes sixth in the first division should not have the same chance of reaching the Premier League as the one that finishes third.

The Korean national baseball league, which began its season in April, starts its play-offs on Thursday, with the teams which finished third and fourth (sparring you the Korean: the Giants and the Lions) facing three matches to win the title, while the second-placed team (Tigers) faces two and the top team (Eagles) only one.

First the Giants play the Lions, then the winner plays the Tigers. The winner of the second match plays the Eagles for the championship. Baseball is the No. 1 sport here and this year, in its fourth year, has won popular approval.



FILM

LES AMANTS DU PONT NEUF (18): Leos Carax's hymn to Paris and a punk bum's love for a young artist going blind. *Terrific in spouts, and a real movie movie.* Denis Lavant, Juliette Binoche. *Lumière* (071-836 0691).BOB ROBERTS (15): Lively spoof documentary about a right-wing folk-singer's dirty battle for a seat in the U.S. Senate. *Enterprising* directorial debut by actor Tim Robbins. *Gate* (071-227 4043) *MGM* *Chelsea* (071-352 5096) *MGM* *Tottenham Court* (071-632 1483) *Odyssey*: *Haymarket* (0426 6 43523) *Kensington* (0426 514665) *Screen on the Hill* (071-435 3365) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).Guffman: Clint Eastwood in the western *Unforgiven*THE HOURS AND TIMES: Will Brian Epstein and John Lennon in Barcelona? *Director Christopher Münch's rudimentary style makes it difficult for most people to care.* *ICA* (071-930 3647).HOUSEKEEPER (PG): Goldie Hawn moves in to architect Steve Martin's dream house and poses as his wife. *A few bright spots; mostly very trying.* *Director, Frank Oz.* *Camden Parkway* (071-267 7034) *MGM* *Baker Street* (071-935 9772) *MGM* *Fulham Road* (071-370 2636) *MGM* *Chelsea* (071-636 0310) *MGM* *Trocadero* (071-434 0031) *Plaza* (071-497 9991) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (15): Chaste Western couple in Pakistan suffer culture clashes. *Interesting material supported by witty treatment.* *James Wilby, Melissa Leo, Writer-Director, Jamil Dehlavi.* *Minerva* (071-235 4225) *MGM* *Shaftesbury Avenue* (071-836 62793 79 7025).HOWARDS END (PG): Absorbing version of E.M. Forster's novel about two colliding families with different ideals. *With Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Helena Bonham-Carter, Director, James Ivory.* *Curzon: Mayfair* (071-465 8865) *Phoenix* (081-888 2235).JUICE (15): Friendship and violence among ghetto youths. *Superior satire of the new black cinema, directed by Spike Lee's cameraman, Ernest R. Dickerson.* *Other Eps:* *Tupac Shakur* *MGM* *Fanton Street* (071-930 0531) *MGM* *Trocadero* (071-434 0331).KNIGHT MOVES (16): Somebody goes on a murder spree during a chess tournament; it champion player Christopher Lambert? *Tawdry thriller co-starring Diane Lane.* *Flashy direction by Carl Schenkel.* *MGM* *Baker Street* (071-935 9772) *MGM* *Chelsea* (071-352 5096) *MGM* *Odyssey*: *Kensington* (0426 514665) *West End* (0426 915574) *Screen on the Green* (071-226 3520) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN (PG): *Brilliantly clichéd plot to win over all-girl baseball team.* *Geena Davis, Tom Hanks and, inconsequently, Madonna, Director, Penny Marshall.* *MGM* *Chelsea* (071-935 9772) *MGM* *Haymarket* (071-839 1527) *MGM* *Odyssey*: *Kensington* (0426 514665) *West End* (0426 915574) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).LETHAL WEAPON 3 (15): *Rousing comedy and mayhem with L.A. cops Riggs and Murtaugh.* *Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Director, Richard Donner.* *MGM* *Baker Street* (071-935 9772) *MGM* *Chelsea* (071-352 5096) *MGM* *Haymarket* (071-839 1527) *MGM* *Odyssey*: *Kensington* (0426 514665) *West End* (0426 915574) *Screen on the Green* (071-226 3520) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).LOVERS (18): In France's Spain, Victoria Abril deals her lodger's intended marriage. *Excellent fable of mad love, expertly mounted by director Vicente Aranda.* *MGM Piccadilly* (071-434 3561) *Screen on the Hill* (071-935 3266) *Screen on Baker Street* (071-935 2772).THE PLAYER (15): *Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman from Michael Tolkin's novel.* *Tim Robbins as the studio executive who kills a writer, plus cameos galore.* *MGM* *Baker Street* (071-935 9772) *MGM* *Chelsea* (071-352 5096) *MGM* *Haymarket* (071-839 1527) *MGM* *Odyssey*: *Kensington* (0426 514665) *West End* (0426 915574) *Screen on the Green* (071-226 3520) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).AN INSPECTOR CALLS: *Stephen Daldry's powerful reworking of Priestley's drama of social responsibility.* *National (Lythamstade, South Bank, SE1) (071-928 2252) Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm.*IT RUMS IN THE FAMILY: *Larks in the hospital common room; matron outraged; doctors flummoxed, Ray Cooney farce with lots of laughs.* *With John Quigley, Sandra Dickinson and Cooney himself.* *Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 9.30pm.*MEDEA: *Diana Rigg plays Euripides' witch-wife.* *Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.* Until Oct 24.I CAPULETTI E I MONTECCHI: *Pier Luigi Pizzi's 1984 production of Bellini's *Del canto* treatment of the Romeo and Juliet story is revived with a promising cast.* *Anne Sofie von Otter sings Juliet, the young British soprano Amanda*

THE POWER OF ONE (12):

Orphaned white South African child develops a social conscience, jumbled epic, coarsely handled by director John S. Aviatic. *Stephen Dorff, Morgan Freeman, Armin Mueller-Stahl.* *Barbican* (071-638 8891) *Camden Parkway* (071-267 7034) *Empire* (071-497 9999) *MGM* *Fulham Road* (071-370 2636) *MGM* *Penton Street* (071-930 0631) *MGM Piccadilly* (071-437 3561) *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).UNFORGIVEN (15): Clint Eastwood's mellowed gunman is forced to resurrect his lethal skills. *Marvelously resonant, reflective Western.* *Gene Hackman, Morgan Freeman, Richard Harris.* *Camden Plaza* (071-485 2443) *Empire* (071-497 9999) *MGM* *Fulham Road* (071-370 2636) *MGM* *Haymarket* (071-839 1527) *MGM* *Oxford Street* (071-636 0310) *MGM* *Trocadero* (071-434 0031) *Notting Hill Coronet* (071-727 6705) *Screen on Baker Street* (071-935 2772) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME: Excellent playing by Alec McCowen, James McDaniel and Stephen Rea as the Beirut hostages in Frank McGuinness's new play. *Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.*SQUARE ROUNDS: New Tony Harrison "theatre piece" in verse re-sets the inventors of machine guns and other tools of slaughter. *Performed almost entirely by women.* *National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews from Fri, 7.15pm; opens Oct 1, 7pm.*WHO SHALL I BE TOMORROW: Joanna Lumley plays an out-of-work actress doing the rounds in Bernard Kops's *Womankind.* *Also starring Harry Landis.* *Greenwich, Croons Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Previews from Thurs, 7.45pm; opens Sept 29, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.*A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Pullow's triumphant RSC production. *John Carlisle as a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama laced with wit.* *Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.*

THEATRE

LONDON

THE ALCHEMIST: David Bradley and Jonathan Hyde nimblely conniving the town in Sam Mendes's very funny production of Jossom's satire.

*Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Mon-Wed, 7.15pm.*DEATH AND THE MAIDENS: Ariel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. *Penny Downie, Danny Webb and Hugh Ross make up the cast.* *Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thus, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.*WHITE SANDS (15): The FBI, black marketeers and a small-town cop chase each other's tails in New Mexico. *An impenetrable plot, but lively. *Ulf Dafoe, Mickey Rourke, Director, Roger Donaldson.* *MGM* *Fulham Road* (071-839 2635) *MGM* *Haymarket* (071-839 1527) *MGM* *Trocadero* (071-434 0031) *MGM* *Tottenham Court Road* (071-636 6148).*

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Roll up for a 'real' fantasy thrill

In the quest for excitement Joe Joseph plunges headlong into a 'virtual reality' world of roller-coasters and lunchboxes



TV REVIEW
THERE was a time when an adult in search of a racy thrill might chase a few pigeons across Trafalgar Square, or maybe spoon six sugars into a colleague's afternoon tea, and feel they had tasted enough adrenaline to last them a decade. But now that escapism has been institutionalised by theme parks, millions of people seeking excitement can be aroused only by the prospect of being chased at 80mph by a serial killer across a roller-coaster ride that bursts into flames after being hit by an earthquake. And this is before they've had a few drinks.

Roller-coasters became popular about 400 years ago in Russia, helping to keep the court of Catherine the Great amused. Presumably with a horse theme. But things changed about 40 years ago when Walt Disney looked across a Californian orange grove and had a vision of a magic kingdom full of fairy-tale castles, cartoon characters with abnormally large heads and escapist roller-coaster rides. It launched a revolution, and ferocious competition for thrill-seekers.

Dreaming in Disneyland became not just a weekend diversion but every American's constitutional right. Newsreels taken when Disneyland first opened its doors show Ronald Reagan skipping round the place like a schoolboy, under the voice-over: "Disneyland could only happen in a country where freedom is a heritage and the pursuit of happiness a basic human right", a proposition so axiomatic and powerful that it served years later as Reagan's political philosophy when he reached the White House.

This historic newsreel was re-shown in *Theme Park Heaven*, the latest in Channel 4's *Equinox* series, which took a white-knuckled peek at modern amusement rides and, in passing, reminded us how television documentaries have become as gory and dispiriting to watch as the cops-and-robbers shoot-outs they hypenate.

OK, some people may be impressed when they see Dr David Lewis, a psychologist, argue: "Stress is often seen as something negative and damaging... But in fact you need a level of stress in order to feel good about yourself, to feel at peak performance." (Although, frankly, it is just this sort of remark that convinces us laymen that scientists,

and psychologists in particular, have bigger holes in their doughnuts than the rest of us.)

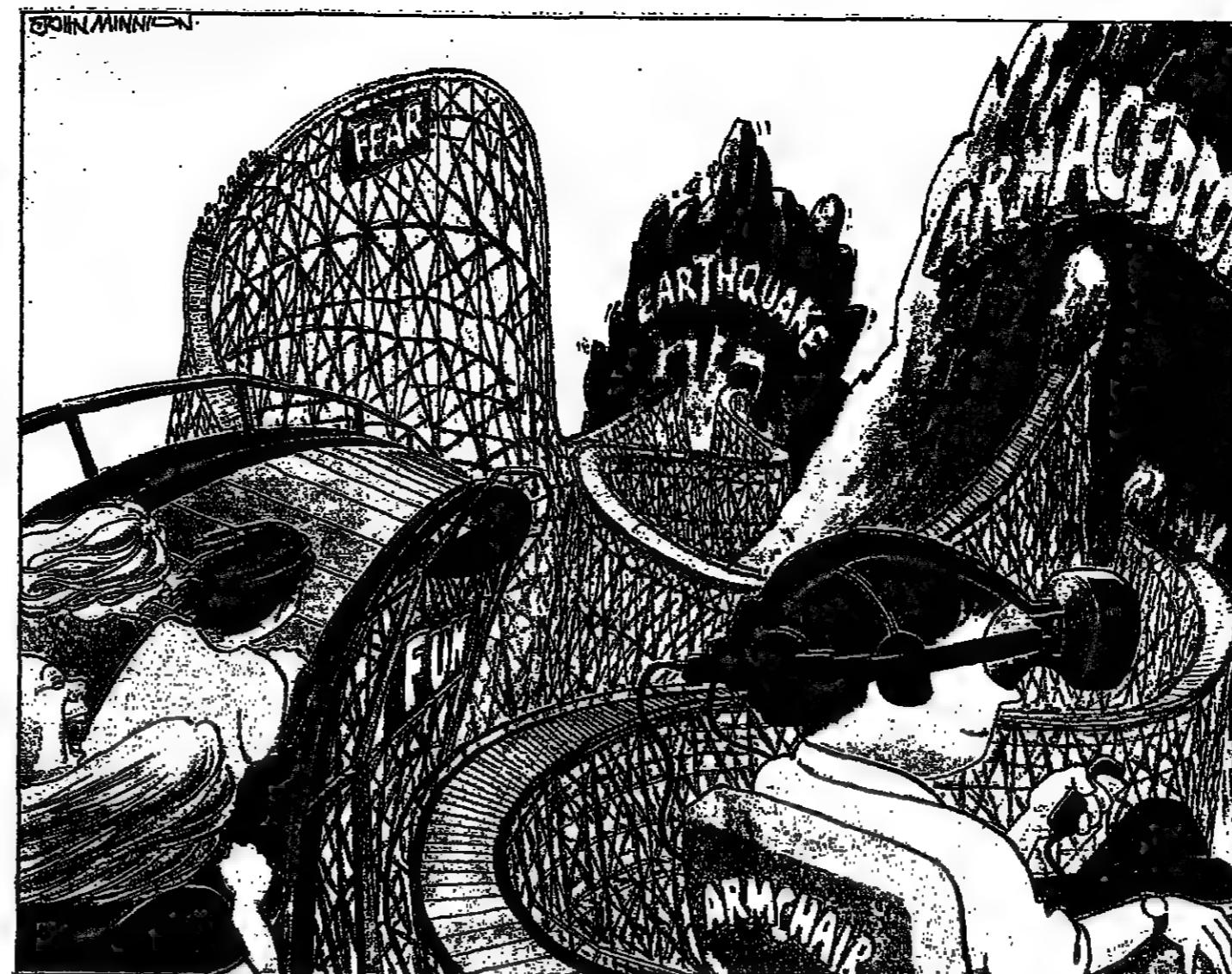
But if it is hard to believe that an unemployed man worried about repaying his mortgage is at least grateful that stress is making him feel good about himself, it is even harder to fathom the appeal of roller-coasters. Why, unless you are in London for lunch and due in Edinburgh for tea, would you want to travel anywhere at 80mph, sitting in what looks like a biggish pram?

A designer of these new roller-coasters, which cost about £4 million, confides that you could get the same effect by driving at just above the speed limit, with your head stuck out of the window. Is this fun? Apparently. Debbie Enders, a roller-coaster junkie, was filmed on her virgin ride on the Magnum XL 200, the world's tallest roller-coaster. It has a descent that could be imitated by jumping off a cliff. She described it as "like experiencing being in a poem". Debbie cannot be reading Béjart.

What is unsettling is that as *Theme Park Heaven* unfolded, you got the feeling that roller-coaster rides are not only becoming an alternative universe, but that the lines between the real and fantasy universes are becoming so blurred that an academic such as Professor Sylvère Lotringer, of Columbia University, does not feel shy about suggesting that the recent riots in Los Angeles could be interpreted as a theme park developed on the theme of "civil war".

Timothy Leary, who probably thinks "white knuckles" are some new kind of drug, told us that "being able to put on some goggles to immerse yourself in some alternate reality is our culture's present version of a psychadelic drug's alternate reality". He was referring to the trend that is keeping roller-coaster designers at their drawing boards: virtual reality theme parks.

You see, simulated rides no longer generate enough excitement. The Universal Studios tour in Hollywood already has a ride through an earthquake measuring 8.3 on the Richter scale, with floods and fires for those who like their bodies shaken and stirred. And, hitching together film and aviation simulator technologies, we have the *Back to the Future* ride, which



Stirred, but not sufficiently shaken: theme-park thrills could give way to shudders in the sitting-room via a "virtual reality" headset

saves space by jiggling your roller-coaster pram in front of a wrapped-in screen.

Under construction is an archaeological ride through ancient Egypt to tempt the jaded patrons of a Las Vegas casino: this brings home how the experience of sitting in a blacked-out gazing room for maybe 79 hours on the trot and gambling away your children's school fees is regarded as insufficiently escapist for some people.

To meet the challenge, designers are working on "movie parks" or "cinetropes", marriages between theme parks and movie complexes. The idea is to "see a lot of short stories that together create a 90-minute experience", presumably enabling us to shudder in an earthquake, meet Mickey Mouse, fly into the future, roller-coaster through Luxor and still have time for a pepperoni pizza on the way home.

Of course, with virtual reality,

when we will be able to immerse ourselves in three-dimensional worlds by wearing special goggles, the theme park comes to us, enabling us to escape into fantasy without even leaving our sitting-rooms. A family day out at Disneyland will then become as sociable as a commuter Tube train in which everyone is buried in a newspaper or listening to personal stereos. Some scientists are even working on "retinal injections", which will project the image directly into your eyeballs, saving the effort of putting on your virtual reality headset. Oh, for heaven's sake.

Call me old-fashioned, but scientists seem to lack imagination. Just flicking on the television last week suggested several ways in which thrill-seekers could keep their pulses racing without the fuss of building £4 million roller-coasters. *The Big Boss*, Tuesday's episode of *Survival* on Channel 4, peered at

the Cape buffalo, ranked among the most dangerous animals in Africa. These beasts roam the savannah, largely minding their own business, but they are not shy about attacking any lion that picks on a young buffalo calf. Would it not make a cheap and ecologically sound "theme park experience" to arrange bungee-jumping above a Cape buffalo herd? Hours of family fun! Keep the camcorder running.

Then again, *Disaster at Valdez* (BBC1) suggested possibilities for uniting adventure seekers and 11 million gallons of crude oil off Alaska. A roller-coaster ride based on the etiquette quiz show *Ps and Qs* (BBC2) would avoid messy oil spills and would also appeal to those whose heart pounds before asking the hostess if she would mind heating up your vichyssoise because it seems to have got cold

while you were in the lavatory.

After watching *Tiddlywinks 'n' Undies* (BBC1), a fascinating history of the false eyelash and the Welsh factory that has kept everyone from Mae West to Barbara Cartland fluttering, I feel sure there is room for a theme park ride in which punters, travelling on a roller-coaster, have to glue eyelashes on to mannequins of Miss Cartland and Dusty Springfield as they speed past.

The Survival Guide To Food (BBC1), which advised how to avoid food poisoning in your lunchbox, could be turned into an amusing diversion in which punters, offered six bowls of crudities, have to avoid the one spiked with botulism: exciting, but costing nowhere near £4 million to stage.

And then there was *The Last Night Of The Proms* (BBC1)—but that has been an embarrassing roller-coaster romp for years.

TV PREVIEW

The Look (Sunday, BBC2, 8.10pm)
Fashion is big egos, big shoulders, and big business. Leading designers lend their name to everything from chocolates to coffins, and names such as Giorgio Armani and Ralph Lauren are instantly recognisable, even to the residents of *Coronation Street*. The start tomorrow of a six-part series that lifts the veil on the fashion industry concentrates on who sits where at the fashion shows that keep fashion journalists, the glitterati and department store buyers jet-bound from Paris to Milan to New York non-stop through the year. The seating plan is a political map of the fashion industry, bringing headaches for those left to assign the places, and glory for those who claw their way into the front row.

Cravies (Tuesday, BBC1, 9.30pm)
Lynda La Plante, the author of *Prime Suspect*, turns her gaze on to how highly trained paratroopers cope with civilian life when the army makes them redundant. The six-part drama series reaches our screens just as the British army begins laying off 40,000 soldiers. The battle to survive on civvy street seems almost as tough as in a war zone. The reluctant solution for La Plante's fictional ex-paras is a slow slide into crime, wooded by a big-time villain (Peter O'Toole making a rare cameo appearance).

Hostages (Wednesday, ITV, 8pm)
This is the controversial drama-documentary that Granada filmed in the teeth of opposition from the Beirut hostages John McCarthy and Brian Keenan. Their years of hell are shrunk into two hours by Bernard MacLaverty, a big-name writer served by big-name actors. McCarthy is played by Colin Firth, Jill Morell by Natasha Richardson, and the American hostage Frank Reed by Harry Dean Stanton. Kathy Bates, who won a Best Actress Oscar for her part in the movie *Misery*, plays Terry Anderson's sister, Peggy Say. The film has become interwoven with bickering about who is cashing in on whom. Keenan's memoirs are due to be published on Thursday.

Present Imperfect (Thursday, BBC2, 9.30pm)
This is a glimpse of the world of Max Clifford, who makes a living by getting his clients' names on to the front pages of the smaller newspapers. Among the tacky of showbiz PR fixers, Mr Clifford was the man who helped to promote the sly and retiring Pamela Bordes, before stepping in to transfer Antonia de Sancha from the arms of David Mellor into the clutches of the tabloids.

J.J.

Record review: Ronnie Wood, Sinéad O'Connor, *Chérubin*

Stone gathers moss at last

BOOK

sound approximately like vintage Stones, with Wood producing the sub-Dylan drawl which all non-singing rock 'n' rollers seem to adopt when they suddenly find the microphone pointing their way.

There are a couple of scrappy ballads ("Always Wanted More" and "Breathe on Me"), touches of Memphis soul on "Somebody Else", and a lively country honk with fiddles and accordion ("Ragtime Annie"), but Wood remains mindful of his limitations and resists the temptation to reach for anything beyond his means. The result is a serviceable album with touches of roguish humour and warmth.

But with four solo albums behind him, not one of which has registered in the chart, Wood has not had much luck in carving out a career in his own right. It has taken him until now to produce an album, *Slide on This* (Continuum 1992-2), that does justice to his ability.

Slide on This (the title refers to his guitar-playing) is a genial and unambitious collection which faithfully distils his elusive essence. With Charlie Watts on drums, the bar-room chug of "Josephine" (a cheeky elegy to Wood's wife) and a spirited 12-bar "Show Me",



Solo success: Ronnie Wood's album justifies his ability

then, to find her tackling a collection of big-band show tunes on her latest album, *Am I Not Your Girl?* (Ensign 21952-2).

Backed by a 47-piece orchestra, she makes a fair stab at such standards as "Be-Witched, Bewitched and Bewildered", "I Want to Be Loved by You", "Gloomy Sunday" and even that pinnacle of 1970s kitsch "Don't Cry For Me

Argentina". But despite the rich feel of the arrangements, O'Connor rarely sounds as if she means what she is singing, and try as she may to immerse herself in the material, there is an academic air to the project.

DAVID SINCLAIR

• Tonight at 10.20pm, BBC2 presents Sinéad O'Connor, which documents the making of *Am I Not Your Girl?*

Rosina in *The Barber of Seville* turned into the unhappy Countess Almaviva in *Figaro*. But whatever happened to Chérubin, the ubiquitous page in love with every female in the Almaviva household? The answer was provided in an almost forgotten opera by Massenet, *Chérubin*: he just went on phantasmagoria.

Some Massenet critics have rejected *Chérubin* as a piece of dismissible froth. RCA proves otherwise in a highly attractive recording (09026 60593-2, 2 CDs) led by four of America's most accomplished singers — Frederica Von Stade, June Anderson, Samuel Ramey and Dawn Upshaw; just what *Chérubin* needs to savour its shimmering score, where passionate mingles with outbursts of emotion typical of Massenet.

The fizzy story, taken from a boulevard comedy, has Chérubin suddenly besotted with L'Enseigné, leading dancer at the Madrid Ballet and favourite of the king. Von Stade, long one of the most delectable Chérubins in Mozart's *Figaro*, gives him coltish grace and nudges him in the direction of Octavian in *Rosenkavalier*. Anderson is all vocal glibness as the diva who is not averse to the attentions of a toy boy for an evening, and their flirtation in Act II provides the climax of the opera.

Ramey as Le Philosophe, Chérubin's tutor, takes a

OPERA

RCA's *Falstaff* (09026 60705-2, 2 CDs) also comes from Munich, this time with the Bavarian Radio Orchestra. Sir Colin Davis opts for a vigorous Verdi, with Mendelssohn's moonlit magic thrown in. But there are question marks over his chosen cast for the recording.

Rolando Panerai is now in his late sixties and sounds an sentinel. At the close, Panerai quotes a snatch from Don Giovanni's serenade: the hell fires may yet be round the corner for Chérubin.

But it is not all Gallic sentiment. At the close, Panerai quotes a snatch from Don Giovanni's serenade: the hell fires may yet be round the corner for Chérubin.

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It is not

Echoes from a silent keyboard

Ten years after his death, the pianist Glenn Gould is still revered as a reclusive genius.
Clive Davis reports

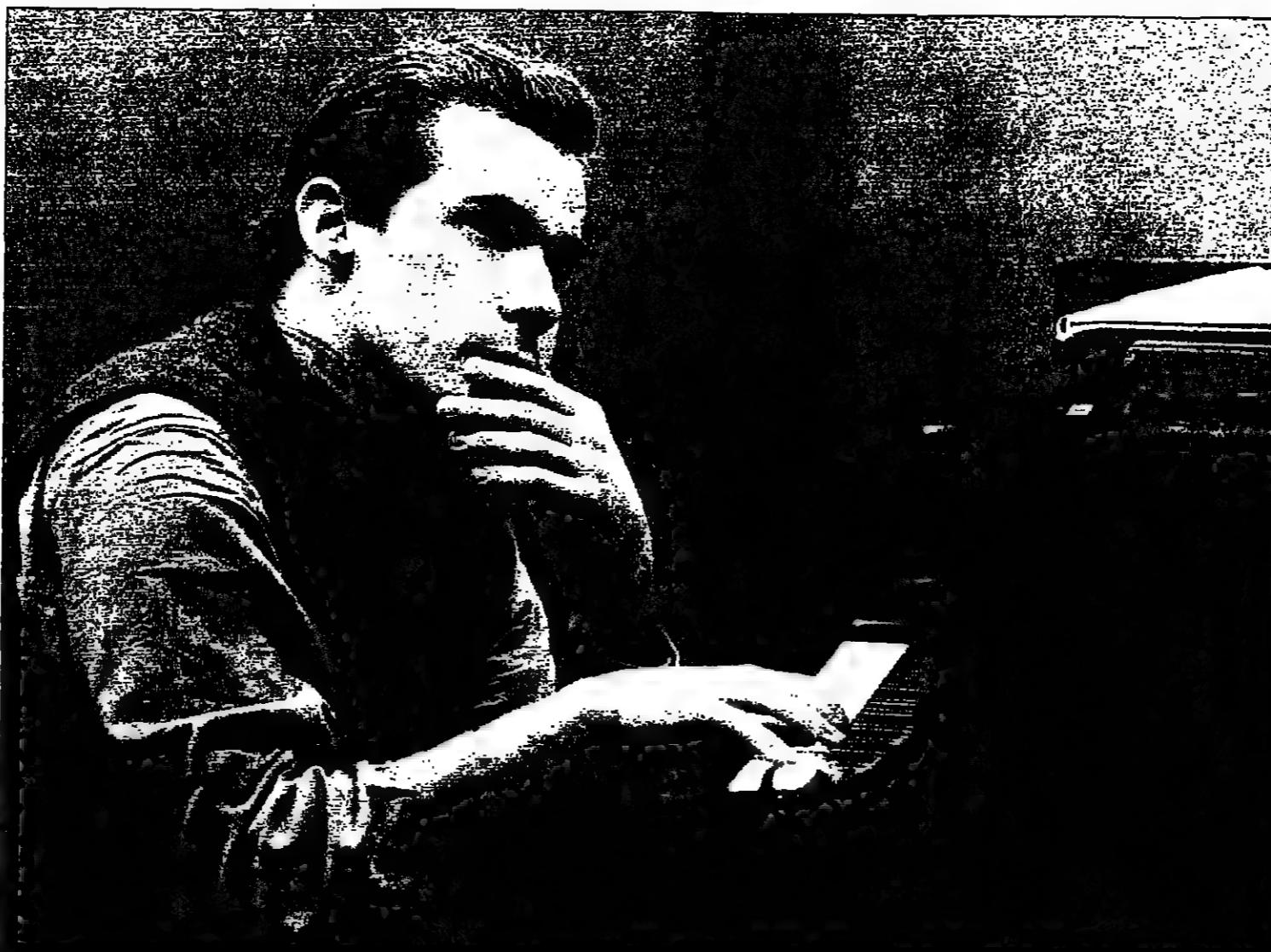
Glenn Gould, the most enigmatic pianist of his generation, is buried in the sprawling Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto, his home town. His grave has a modest tombstone, but a few feet away there is a small granite plaque embedded in the grass. Carved into the stone, beneath his name, is a music stave bearing the opening notes of Bach's "Goldberg Variations", the work on which Gould's reputation was built.

Foreign visitors, notably from Japan, regularly make their way to the site. Canadians traditionally slow to display excessive enthusiasm (their way, they joke, of proving that they are not Americans), generally show less interest. Until now, that is. The 60th anniversary of his birth and the tenth anniversary of his death both fall next week, and Toronto will see something akin to Gould-mania, with the launch on Wednesday of a five-day international conference devoted to the pianist.

His admirers around the world will also be able to join in the celebrations, with the launch of a spectacular collection from the archives of Sony Classical (Columbia, as was). Over the coming two years the company will issue all of Gould's work for CBS, together with a mass of radio and television programmes made for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation over a 25-year period, plus recordings of concerts made before Gould withdrew from live performances in 1964. The first lavish instalment of CDs, laser discs and videos — spanning works by Bach to Hindemith — goes on sale this month.

Gould died in 1982, suffering a stroke two days after his 50th birthday. The Toronto conference, organised by a foundation set up in his memory, will examine his career as a musician, polemicist and documentary-maker.

Apart from listening to lectures and attending memorial concerts, visitors willing to make a "modest" donation will be allowed to play one of Gould's pianos — a Yamaha — for a Warhol-esque 15 minutes. Gould's famous low-slung folding chair will be on display, and the city will also host the premiere of a biographical play, *Gleam*, inspired by the structure of the Goldberg Variations. A plaque is to be unveiled at Gould's modest apartment block, and delegates can dine at the pianist's favourite eating place, Fran's Restaurant, which is



Glenn Gould, 1932-1982: "he preferred making recordings because he could imagine that he was just communicating with one person"

further along on St Clair Avenue. All this may sound mildly obsessive. But Gould inspired extreme responses: listeners were rarely indifferent to his idiosyncratic interpretations. His infamous mannerisms — exaggerated swaying, loud humming — sometimes seemed to attract more attention from critics than the music itself.

Aside from the more gimmicky sideshows, the conference has a serious, forward-looking purpose. As the administrator John Miller explains, the aim is to celebrate Gould's 60th birthday rather than the 10th anniversary of his demise.

"We don't wish to rehash his ideas but to leap forward and look at the way we think, if he were alive today, he would be exploring new technology and communications. That's what he would have wanted. In a sense Gould was a reclusive person who loved to communicate through technology, whether it was the telephone, typewriter or television."

Miller and his colleagues have lined up a series of seminars and talks with somewhat forbidding titles such as "The Technology of Future Musi-

cal Communication" (overtones here, perhaps, of Gould's own essay "The Prospects of Recording"). Among the guest speakers will be Tod Machover, director of the Experimental Media Facility at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He believes that Gould — like Leonard Bernstein to a lesser extent — deserves credit for his early recognition of the role that new technology could play in disseminating music.

Gould's decision to abandon the concert hall was,

says Machover, partly dictated by an intense dislike of the "blood sport" atmosphere of live performances but also by an understanding that, in the modern era, music was becoming a less public phenomenon. The point was conveyed in another of Gould's essays, "Strauss and the Electronic Future", published in 1964.

Gould wrote: "The great paradox about the electronic transmission of musical sound is that as it makes available to the most enormous audience, either simultaneously or in a delayed encounter, the identical

musical experience, it encourages that audience to react not as captives and automatons but as individuals capable of an unprecedented spontaneity of judgement."

Virtually every facet of Gould's life will be minutely examined in coming days. The conference will also coincide with the publication — by Oxford University Press — of a selection of almost 200 of his letters (to be issued in Britain early next year). The irony is that Gould was an intensely private individual, obsessed with controlling his dealings with the outside world, even to the point of concocting print "interviews" with himself which were later published under the name of compliant journalists.

Anyone hoping for sensational disclosures in the letters is likely to be disappointed. Gould's recent biographer Otto Friedrich, who worked his way through the piles of correspondence during his research, concluded that it was "only moderately interesting" and that Gould had already weeded out anything he did not want preserved.

Nevertheless John Roberts, the co-editor of the Selected Letters, stresses

they shed light on Gould's approach to technical aspects of his craft — for example his views on adapting piano to produce the dry, chiselled tones that he favoured. A former music producer at CBC, Roberts was one of Gould's closest friends. After the pianist renounced the public stage, Roberts broke house rules by offering him the use of an office at the Corporation's headquarters, which Gould used regularly.

Above all, Roberts says it is important not to interpret Gould's retreat into seclusion as a form of misanthropy. "He was actually an extremely warm person who kept a certain distance from most people. Early on, before he gave up playing in public, my wife and I used to travel down to the Stratford (Ontario) Festival with him to hear him play, but he would beg us to sit in the wings instead of in the auditorium, because it made it easier for him. He often told me that he preferred making recordings because he could imagine that he was just communicating with one person. It wasn't that he disliked people; he just didn't like the idea of facing two thousand of them at a time."

Clashing claims in adjacent chambers

THIS time the South Bank

really got it wrong. Two short chamber music series of import and intrigue — one a sequence called "Contrasts" devised by Andras Schiff and Heinz Holliger, the other a typically enterprising 20th century collection performed by the Nash Ensemble — began in adjacent halls on the same night, clearly competing for the same audience.

As a result, a horde of critics scurried between halls to catch the Nash's world premiere at the Purcell Room (conducted by Lionel Friend), of Mark Anthony Turnage's new Yeats cycle *Her Anxiety*. Written for soprano and mixed septet, it is another intriguing staging-post on Turnage's beguiling creative journey. In a pre-concert talk, Turnage explained that he has now reached the end of a phase in which he has been stripping his music of its former complexities in order to attain a purer, more concentrated expression. *Her Anxiety*, written a year ago, belongs to this "experimental, consolidatory period".

The piece is concise — around 12 minutes long — but assured, affecting and individual. Its flavour changes from amorous light to cynical dark.

After the richly scored opening movement, "The Lady's First Song", Turnage plunges into an unaccompanied song for the soloist-like "Sweet Dancer".

The third movement, "The Lady's Second Song", is an instrumental piece, where oboe, clarinet and violin engage in Stravinsky-like declamation, before the poem "Her Anxiety", speaking of the inevi-

table corrosion of love, turns the work on its dark side. The soprano Rosa Mannion gave a lovely performance.

In Schiff's and Holliger's pot-pourri at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sir Harrison Birtwistle's new *Five Distances for Five Instruments* proved more distant than hoped: the first performance is now scheduled for next May. But there was another premiere of Sandor Veress's *Dappich* for wind quintet, a vivid, witty little work that goes from stark despair to brilliance.

The piece was actually composed in 1968 but only recently unearthed by Holliger, following his composer's recent death. The Korean composer Isang Yun also provided intrigue with his *Rondell* (1975) for oboe, clarinet and bassoon, a spiky and compelling alternation and exploration of two different musics.

The first concert of this series suffered from too many pieces by Bach interrupting Berio's *Sequenza 17th*, Berg's *Four Pieces*, Op. 5, for clarinet and piano — Elmar Schmid and Schiff and Kurtág (the vivid, splashily modernist piano duet of *Jatekok*, Book 4, with Schiff and Holliger, and the post-Webernian *Second Wind Quintet* of 1950). But the focus of the evening was two British premieres of works by Elliott Carter.

First came the brief and lyrical *Inner Song* for solo oboe, dedicated to the memory of Stefan Wolpe and played beautifully by Holliger. And to end, there was the new *Piano and Wind Quintet*, a typically tough, thoroughly argued work that explores and collides the three different sound-characters of piano, horn and woodwind trio.

STEPHEN PETTITT



Mark Anthony Turnage: period of consolidation

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Greedy ambition

Boundless greed is not a winning trait to admit to on the first page of an autobiography, but Barry Humphries risks it. "I have always wanted more" — specifically, he explains, more money, more applause, and more sex . . .

John Carey on Barry Humphries — in *The Sunday Times Books* tomorrow

In the Roman camp

BUDGETS being what they are, audiences are unlikely, in the words of the old showbiz joke, to leave a Bloolips show whistling the sirens; but they might be humming the frocks.

This troupe is all about (cross)-

dressing up and their latest

show, a "spectacular Roman

Epic", has given them every

encouragement to rip down the

curtains and get out the

sewing machine.

Imaginative recycling of

such unlikely household ob-

jects as laundry baskets, kitchen

stools, mop-heads and

rubber gloves produces a suc-

cession of stunning ensembles

for the cast of six. A telephone

seat makes a fine imperial

throne (the directory drawer so

handy for spare jewellery).

Led as ever by Bette Bourne,

who directs and takes the

leading role of the Emperor

Hadrian, the current mem-

bers are Precious Pearl, Ivan,

Gretel Feather, pianist La

Belle Martyn and (one woman)

Julia Dunes. The story,

by Ray Dobbins, takes the

relationship between Hadrian

and the beautiful youth,

Antinous, and puts it through

the Bloolips mincer. The result

is a cocktail sausage of an

entertainment-pant fare.

CABARET

Get Hur
Drill Hall Arts
Centre, WC1

The songs, by Phil Booth and Paul Shaw, mix high wit and low comedy. Tunes are familiar; rhymes include "Caesar" with "geezers" and "queeny" with "Mussolini". The script plunders the archives of camp humour, as in the following: A prostitute addresses a character in a crocodile mask. "Hello, sailor." "I'm not a sailor, I'm a milliner." "Oh, in that case, can you tell me where to get left in Egypt?" Bette, Hadrian enters in armour, which he flings off with: "I can't stand war; so many accessories."

Performances are all first-rate, with Pearl and Julia giving Bette serious competition in scene-stealing. From the opening mop dance to the tap-happy finale, it's the funniest show Bloolips have ever done.

TONY PATRICK

Indian abstractions

LONG gone are the days when Uday Shankar and Ram Gopal showed western audiences the magic and mystery of Indian dance as a colourful, exotic phenomenon. Kumudini Lakhini as a young woman danced in London with Gopal, and this week returned with Kadamb, a company she started 14 years ago to turn attitudes to Indian dance on their heads.

There could hardly be a greater contrast between old and new than the piece opening her first tour programme. The young man in *Shrawan*, Maulik Shah, wears a plain white coat and trousers instead of the many-hued costumes we used to see and rather than contemplating lotus flowers or chasing fairies he listens to the sounds around him, his gestures implying their physical presence.

Soon his sounds bring him a quartet of young women to dance with, and later another man. Their relationships — challenging or supporting, threatening or companionable — provide the semi-abstract drama. A pity the sounds themselves, played from recordings, sounded to me like a cross between

DANCE

Kadamb
The Place

Vangelis and a synthesizer imitation of a gamelan. After all we have been told about the relationship between dancer and musician in Indian dance, it seemed to lose more than western dance by using taped accompaniment.

In a duet, the relationship between the man and woman (Ishara Parikh with Maulik Shah) was conveyed by parallel movements without physical contact. And in a group dance for four women, languorous, almost ballerine arm movements were allied with the traditional turns and stamping, in which ankles of small bells supplement the percussive effect. The dancers are engaging, but not virtuosic. Performances by several companies aiming at new ways of using South Asian dance continue at The Place, the Phoenix, Leicester and the Green Room, Manchester.

JOHN PERCIVAL

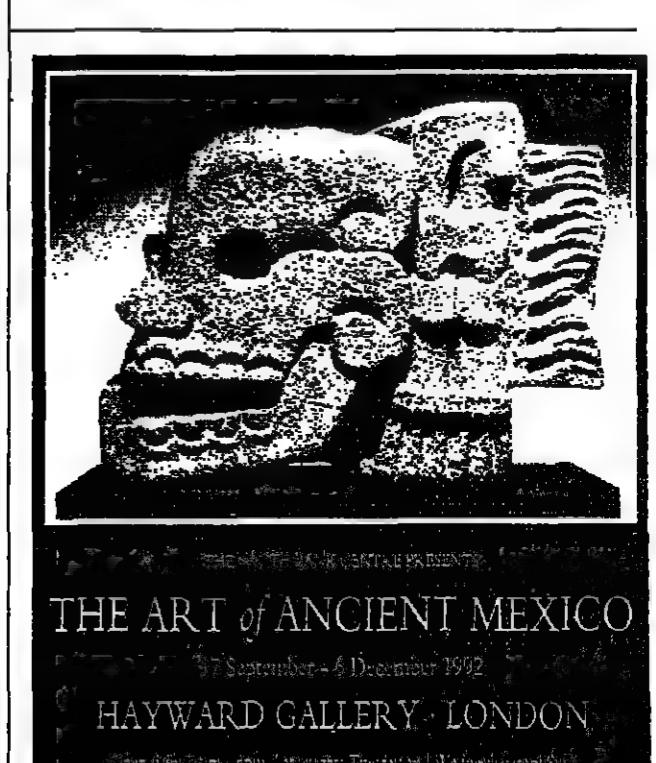
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A fresh Norman conquest

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, picks up tips from the cream of Normandy's chefs



AS YOU enter Normandy, travelling west from Paris on soft country roads, as I did earlier in the year to avoid the lorry drivers' blockades, you are reminded that it is a proudly agricultural land. "Non à la PAC", "Pas de pays sans paysans", "Pas de désertification de l'espace rural" and similar anti-Common Agricultural Policy slogans emerge from the orchards and cornfields.

Militant images sit uneasily alongside the other idyllic aspect of rural Normandy, where the native vache normande shares the rich pasture under the apple trees with the "foreign" blonde d'Aquitaine. Hedgerows and meadows are thick with a tapestry of wild flowers, which makes our own countryside look like barren wasteland.

Apart from the main business of my visit, which was to meet and eat with member chefs of the Association des Bonnes Tables de la Suisse Normande, and to encourage them in promoting the gastronomy of their corner of France, I also had time to explore some of the food production of the region. Where does one begin an article on Normandy food? With the pommeau and pain? With the black pudding capital of the world? With the cream, perhaps, used frequently but not injudiciously in sauces with fish, meat, poultry and desserts — since, as one of the chefs told me, "il n'y a pas de crème, ce n'est pas la cuisine normande".

Normandy cream, or crème fraîche, is special. At 30 per cent fat content, it is not nearly as rich as our own double cream, but it is thick and has a distinctive, sharp flavour, both qualities produced by the addition of lactic cultures. I have used it in several of my recipes today. Some branches of Waitrose and Sainsbury's sell crème fraîche, as do Neals Yard, Dairy and Selfridges in London and the Fine Cheese Company in Bath, among other places.

In Normandy, crème fraîche is made on small farms like that of Gérard and Agnes Vallée at Orbigny in St Pierre la Vieille. They also produce marvellous unpasteurised soft cheese and washed rind cheeses, such as Pont l'Évêque. Nearby, the five Vallée brothers run a much larger concern at Le Grand Béron, where they are the third largest producers of Camembert.

Three types of Camembert are produced in three different factories: Camembert from unpasteurised milk made by modern methods, Camembert from unpasteurised milk made by traditional methods — *moulé à la touche*, in which the curd is poured by hand from large ladles into the moulds to avoid breaking up the curd too much, and Camembert made from pasteurised milk. I came back laden with unpasteurised Camembert, Pont l'Évêque and Livarot, put them into the refrigerator and remembered to take them out two hours before serving, which chefs and cheese-makers alike assured me was the correct thing to do.

A newcomer to the group of foodstuffs which have an *appellation contrôlée* is pommeau. We are familiar with Normandy cider and its distillate, Calvados, but pommeau de Normandie is perhaps less well known. I have spent several instructive hours with M and Mme Claude Courval at their farmhouse, Plainville, in Pierrefitte en Cinglais. We sipped the Courval pommeau with an apricot tart and a quarte quarts, a plain but exquisitely soft and moist pound cake.

The pommeau is made from the juice of cider apples blended with Calvados and aged for at least 14 months in oak barrels before bottling. Their own production is aged for 18 months or so. Some say it should be chilled, some argue for it being served at room temperature. It is not unlike Pineau des Charentes in weight and character: chilled as an aperitif, it is hard to beat. Like Pineau, it is also very good in the kitchen.

Much more difficult in cooking is pain, or perry, almost as common in the Suisse Normande as



cider. The pain sec is very dry and crisp, with scarcely a pétillance; the doux, on the other hand, is very fizzy, which makes it a good ingredient in cocktails. In cooking, much of the flavour is lost and the acidity remains.

Potted Normandy cheese
(makes about 10oz/340g)
approx 1/2 mature Camembert
approx 1/2 Pont l'Évêque
3oz/85g unsalted butter
2tbsp crème fraîche
1-2tbsp fresh herbs

Discard the rind from the cheeses, slice or chop, and put in a food processor bowl. Add the rest of the ingredients and process until smooth. Pack into ramekins and serve as a starter, at the cheese course, or on fingers of hot toast as an accompaniment to the cocktail Suisse Normande.

Moules poudées à la normande
(serves 4-6)
4lb/1.8kg mussels
4p/140ml Normandy cider

2tbsp finely chopped shallots or onions
white pepper
2tbsp pommeau
4p/140ml crème fraîche or soured cream
1 free-range egg yolk

Scrub the mussels under cold running water, knocking off any barnacles with the back of an old knife, and tug off the beard, or byssus. Discard any mussels that remain open. Rinse thoroughly, drain, and put in a lidded saucepan with the cider and half the shallots or onions. Put on the lid and raise the heat. Cook for 2-3 minutes until the mussels have steamed open. Remove from the heat, strain the cooking liquid into a shallow saucepan through a very fine sieve or muslin to trap any sand or grit. Add the remaining shallots or onion, a little white pepper and the pommeau. Cook for 5-10 minutes over moderate heat, and then stir in the cream. Reduce further to taste. Meanwhile, remove one of the shells from each mussel, and divide the remaining mussels in the shell

among 4-6 soup plates. Beat the egg yolk with a little of the sauce, and then return it to the pan to heat through. At this stage, the sauce should not boil or the egg yolk will curdle. Pour the hot sauce over the mussels and serve immediately.

Glazed scallops and apples with coral sauce
(serves 4)
8-10 scallops
3 smallish dessert apples
1oz/30g unsalted butter
2tbsp dry cider
seasoning
2tbsp clear honey
2tbsp pommeau
pinch of ground cinnamon
chervil or watercress for decoration

Clean and trim the scallops. Remove the coral and put to one side. Slice each scallop into three circles. Peel, core and dice one of the apples and cook it in the butter until soft. Add the corals and the cider and cook gently for 3-4 minutes. Blend until smooth and

sieve. Season to taste. Spoon into four shallow heat-proof dishes. Mix the honey, pommeau and cinnamon. Peel, core, quarter and thinly slice the two remaining apples, and arrange with the scallops, interleaved alternately, in each dish. Peel, core and finely dice the apple, and add it to the meat, together with the Calvados, cream and seasoning. Cut a deep pocket in each breast. Stuff the breasts and thighs with the mixture, securing them closed with cocktail sticks. Butter an oven-proof dish, put in the meat, dot with remaining butter, cover with foil, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 220C/425F, gas mark 7 for 15-20 minutes. Serve half a breast and half a thigh for each portion, with the cooking juices poured over it.

• The guinea fowl recipe is based on one from the collection prepared by the Association des Bonnes Tables de la Suisse Normande, available from Charles Corlet Editions, 21 route de Vire, 14110 Condé sur Noireau, France. • Pain and pommeau are available from the Old Street Wine Co (071-729 1768), for £1.97 and £6.75 a bottle respectively.

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Recipes for instant success

Fast food can also be delicious food if you make it yourself

Two or three years ago I would come in from work, tired and hungry, and throw into the oven whichever cook-chill supermarket meal had taken my fancy. I was very much part of the cook-chill generation of shoppers, flying round the supermarket at ten minutes to eight, hungry for the latest time-saving instant supper. The more luxurious the better — chicken tarragon or Kiev, marinated lamb kebabs, pasta with carbonara sauce or sole Veronique. All would be hot and ready within half an hour.

On the evenings that I missed the supermarket I had a choice of take-aways or home delivery. I could pick up some of the best fish and chips in London on my way home, or wait till I walked in the door and dial for an Indian or Chinese (or Thai or Mexican) meal, or pizza, to be baked to my list.

Marks & Spencer's chilled prepared dishes were the best of the lot, and seemed like manna from heaven when I was too busy to soak dried beans, skin oxtails or roll pastry. After all, I had trained as a chef and knew very well that good food cannot also be fast food: good food requires proper equipment and long recipes.

I am not quite sure what brought about the sudden change in my cooking and eating. It may well have been a particularly large bill at the supermarket or a giddy tummy from not heating a cook-chill meal thoroughly. It may have been just an increasing boredom with the blandness of all chilled prepared meals. I suspect, though, that my cooking changed after an exceptionally dull dinner party. I had shopped for the most suitable ready-made dishes available, and as we sat down to eat I realised that there was not one item I had prepared myself. I felt that I had let both my guests and myself down.

Shortly afterwards I started collecting quick recipes for everyday eating. At first it was

stir-fries which proved to be quicker than waiting to line at the Chinese take-away.

I am now less than convinced about the speed of a supermarket supper: it takes a good half-hour to reheat a cook-chill dish of sole Veronique, and yet only six minutes to pan-fry a fillet of sole and a further two to pour a little wine and cream into its pan-juices and toss in a few seedless grapes.

I have applied the same principle to classics such as beef stroganoff or trout with almonds, or even a more distinguished dish like chicken tarragon. They can all be made in minutes by even the most ham-fisted of cooks.

Tarragon chicken
Avoid chicken breasts which have had their skin removed; it is important for keeping the moisture in as it cooks.
4 large boneless chicken breasts
20z/60g butter
8 sprigs fresh tarragon
8fl oz/250ml double cream
salt
2-3tsp tarragon vinegar or lemon juice

Slice the chicken breasts into strips about 1/4in wide. Melt the butter in a shallow pan over a medium heat. Strip the tarragon leaves from their stems. When the butter starts to sizzle, add the chicken pieces and tarragon. Cook until the chicken has coloured slightly, about three minutes.

Move the chicken around the pan but remember that the skin must turn golden in order to give it a good flavour. Check that it is almost cooked by cutting a strip in half. Pour in the cream and let it simmer until it thickens slightly, about another three minutes. Add salt and a teaspoon of vinegar or lemon juice, taste, then add a second, then taste again and add a third if you wish.

NIGEL SLATER

• Nigel Slater's collection of quick recipes, Real Fast Food, is published on October 1 by Michael Joseph (£14.99).



Speedy solutions: Nigel Slater whips up a chicken dish

"IT'S ALL STRAWBERRIES WHERE'S THE JAM?"



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The last in Clare Connery's series on the pleasures and traditions of Irish cooking

Although bread in all its guises is the cornerstone of the Irish baking tradition, it does not stand alone, and today the full range of baking skills is still predominantly on display. These can be seen not only on the afternoon tea tables, renowned throughout the world for their range and quality, but in the many bakeries and coffee shops, particularly in the north of Ireland. Here you will find every kind of cake, scones and biscuits, sweet fancies referred to as tray bakes, and fruit tarts.

These baked goods, whether bread or cakes, were not only a feature of afternoon tea but appeared on many meal tables throughout the day. In the morning, griddle, oven or dropped scones would be served sometime between breakfast and lunch along with the ubiquitous cup of tea; in the evening, a full range of baked goods, including pastry tarts, scones, biscuits, bread and cakes, would be served as part of the high-tea table, the main evening meal, and then later on at supper. At harvest time, too, came the ritual of "taking tea to the field". Many a time I helped carry a laden basket across fields, and spread the bleached-white flour bag or gingham cloth below a haystack.

Irish baking is very much part of the Irish tradition of hospitality, and it is a poor home that cannot offer some treat to a friend or passing stranger.



BROWN SODA OR WHEATEN BREAD

Ara Cruitneachas

The proportions of wholemeal and white flour used to produce this type of soda bread depends on individual taste and whether or not a very light or rough texture is required. I prefer to use stoneground wholemeal flour with a little extra bran and germ added to raise the fibre content as well as to enrich the bread.

1.2oz/350g wholemeal flour, stoneground, medium or coarse
4oz/100g plain flour
1tsp/5ml salt
1 heaped tsp/5ml bicarbonate of soda
1tbsp/15ml wheat or oat bran
1tbsp/15ml wheat or oat germ
1-2oz/25-50g butter
14-16 fl oz/400-475ml buttermilk

Put the wholemeal flour into a large mixing bowl and sieve in the plain flour, salt and bicarbonate of soda. Stir in the bran, germ and castor sugar, mixing thoroughly to combine all the ingredients. Cut the butter into small pieces and rub into the flour mixture until well dispersed. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients, and pour in all the milk. Mix with a broad-bladed knife, working very quickly and gently until all the dry ingredients have been drawn



Dining al fresco: "taking tea to the field" was a harvest ritual

Freshly baked

together to form a loose dough, a bit like thick porridge. It is important not to overwork the dough, otherwise it will become tough.

Lightly grease a 7in/18cm round cake tin or 6in/15cm square tin (1½-2½in/4-7cm deep) and turn the dough into it, leaving the surface rough. Sprinkle with wholemeal flour and bran to give a nutty surface. Set on a hot baking tray and bake at 220C/425F, gas mark 7, for ten minutes, then reduce the heat to 200C/400F, gas mark 6, and cook for a further 40-45 minutes until the bread is well risen, brown and firm to the touch. When the bread is cooked, a skewer inserted into the centre of it should come out clean. The bread should also sound hollow when

tapped. Remove from the oven and cover with a clean cloth. When cool, remove from the tin and wrap in the cloth to go cold. All the soda breads are better eaten on the day of baking.



OATCAKES

Bonnygate Arms, Coire

These simple flat cakes were made from a mixture of oatmeal, water and sunflower oil, and baked on the griddle over a turf fire or on a wood-burning stove. They are then transferred to a wood or metal stand called a "hardening" or "harrow" stand in front of the fire, where they dried out.

Today they are baked either on the griddle or in the oven and eaten with cheese.

makes 8 scones/12 biscuits

8oz/230g medium or fine oatmeal
2oz/60g plain flour
1tsp/2.5ml bicarbonate of soda
1tsp/1.25ml cream of tartar
1tsp/2.5ml salt
2fl oz/50ml water
2oz/60g butter, margarine, lard or bacon dripping
extra oatmeal for working the cake

Put the oatmeal into a large bowl and sieve in the plain flour with the bicarbonate of soda, cream of tartar and salt. Make a well in the centre of the mixture. Heat the water in a small saucepan and add the fat. Bring to boiling point and quickly pour into the well in the dry ingredients and work together using a spoon, until the mixture holds together. Sprinkle a board or work surface with a little extra oatmeal and set the spongy mixture on top, scatter with more oatmeal, then roll into a round cake about 9in/23cm in diameter and ½in/3mm thick, making sure that the dough is not sticking to the surface. Scatter some oatmeal on top of the cake and rub it in with the palm of the hand. Cut into eight lars.

If using a griddle, heat it to pre-heated to temperature and place the lars on top. Bake over a moderate heat until the oatcakes have completely dried out and are a pale golden colour. They can also be baked on a floured baking sheet in the oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4, 40 minutes.



SAFFRON BISCUITS

Brioseal Croch

Saffron was a popular spice in the 18th century. In this recipe from the 1742 "receipt" book of Bishop Stoy of Clogher, it is used with caraway seeds to make afternoon-tea biscuits.

makes 20 biscuits

4oz/120g butter
3oz/90g castor sugar
8oz/240g plain flour
generous pinch of powdered saffron or a 0.5g sachet
4tsp/1.25ml caraway seeds
1tbsp/1.5ml milk to bind

Lightly grease a baking tray with oil or white fat. Cream the butter and sugar until pale in colour. Stir in the flour and caraway seeds. Dissolve the saffron in the milk and add to the other ingredients, mixing to a stiff dough by hand. Roll out to ½in/3mm thick on a lightly-floured work surface and cut into biscuits. Transfer to a baking tray and bake at 180C/350F, gas mark 4, for 20-25 minutes.

Taken from *In an Irish Country Kitchen* by Clare Connery, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £18.99. © Clare Connery, 1992

A taste of consoling northern comfort

ENTERTAINING AT HOME: RABBI LIONEL BLUE

I entertain a lot and it's always informal. As a minister and a rabbi, people bring me their problems, and it's so much nicer to deal with them over a cuppa and something to eat. It has to be something easy. The idea is to show people that you care about them, and food is the equivalent of putting an arm around their shoulders. Nursery treats such as cinnamon toast are the best.

My favourite comfort food, which I give to the very young or the very old, is old-fashioned northern Coney-Only Butties — condensed milk sandwiches. You just use plastic white bread with butter on for a sandwich and put a thick layer of condensed milk inside. If you really want to go to town, you can add some chocolate flake on top.

You can also do a lot with a tin of chestnut puree. I mix it with curd cheese, a bit of vanilla, a drop of rum, and form it into a sort of pyramid. Then I pour hot chocolate over, which solidifies.

I used to give dinner parties a lot. You know, the standard thing: eight people, four courses, two wines. Nowadays I give dinner suppers, and they are usually vegetarian. You can get very good vegetarian substitutes, vegetarian frankfurters, for example. I am almost totally vegetarian now and the only thing I really miss in the meat line is the old-fashioned bangers.

I became interested in cooking because of my grandmother, who came from Russia. We had a deal: she loved children's comics, but couldn't read English. So I'd translate the writing in the balloons for her and, in return, she would give me bits of giblets and applestrudel.

A tremendous mixture of people eat in my kitchen; my fellow rabbis and their husbands and wives, and my mother and aunt, both aged over 90, who live with me. My mother's a dreadful cook, so I have to do the cooking.

Sometimes you find yourself in the situation where you're just about to go to bed and there's a knock at the door. A lot of guests have arrived: there's been a mix up and we've all got the wrong day. The last thing you should do is



Eat, drink and be comforted: Rabbi Lionel Blue's creed

try to cover up. Laugh about it, and invite them in. After all, God created the off-licence and the fish and chip shop. In my experience, most people do not mind laying tables and washing up because it gives them a chance to see the inside of your kitchen drawers.

Everything happens in my kitchen; I like a radio, a glass of cooking sherry and just pottering around. There is a wonderful range now of semi-prepared foods and, if you're intelligent about thinking through recipes, you can come up with lots of things which are no trouble to cook.

With an ordinary onion soup, you can put a little bit of sugar over the onions as you are frying them so that they caramelize. Another trick is to put in a big slug of British sherry, which gives the soup a lovely richness.

I prefer recipes that are un-nervous. You can do very well with fish fillets: just put them

in a greased baking dish, cover with grated cheese, chopped chives and a little paprika and bake for 20 minutes.

A stew is a stew: you put the mixed herbs in or you take them out. There are only a basic number of dishes after all and every cook makes their own variations.

I am 62, and all affection has been scoured out of me. So I enjoy my dinner parties too.

Lionel Blue's vegetable couscous salad

You take a packet of couscous, wash it and soak it overnight in the juice of about six lemons. Then you mix up lots of salad things like chopped spring onions, peeled, seeded tomatoes and peeled cucumbers, and anything else you can think of. You will find the lemon juice cooks the couscous and you do not have to do anything. It all swells up. Mix this lot all together and you'll find you have a tremendous amount for everybody.

Interview by Paddy Burt

Nod your way to fine, cheap wines

Jane MacQuitty
tells how to pick up
a bargain at
this autumn's wine
auctions

BUYING wine at auction is fun and fairly straightforward. With luck, plus a little pre-planning, some astoundingly good bargains can be had.

While the prices at the wine auctions starting this week are not the lowest the salerooms have seen, they have fallen steadily since their 1990 peak. Taking into account the extraordinary run of great vintages in the 1980s now going under the hammer, this is a prime time to buy.

Keen though the saleroom prices will be this season, they will not, alas, drop through the floor as they did in 1974 and 1975 when the oil crisis, combined with the dire '72 vintage, resulted in massive unloading by the trade: Christie's sold a record 500,000 bottles in one two-day sale for Bass Charrington.

The wine trade is in poor shape at present, however: Layton's has £3 million of wine to sell for the agent Atkinson Baldwin, and a distinguished Bordeaux firm has cut its prices by half while other Bordelais quietly unload. Several UK wine merchants are unlikely to survive until Christmas. This lack of confidence, combined with rumours of a large, rot-affected '92 Bordeaux harvest, and the continuing lack of American interest because of the weak dollar, will keep saleroom wine prices low.

Armed with this knowledge, where should you start? Claret and vintage port are the two great wine concerns of the saleroom. Both wines mature steadily over many years, and therefore have wide auction-room appeal.

First growths and the top seconds, such as Pichon-Longueville, Cos d'Estournel, Léoville-Las Cases and Léoville-Barton, are obvious buys, but Bordeaux's lesser wines from third, fourth and fifth growths are worth considering, too.

With so many great 1980s claret vintages on offer, it is hard to choose between them. The '82 is the best, but prices have mostly held steady since



Nosing out a good bargain: tasting sessions are held before most wine auction sales

they were released. Still, for those claret drinkers who did not manage to buy these wines *en primeur*, or early on, this autumn's auctions could be the last chance to buy the '82s at reasonable prices.

More appealing auction clarets are the good value '81 and '83s, both tipped by Michael Broadbent of Christie's, and Serena Sutcliffe of Sotheby's. Many of the '83s are drinking deliciously, without the aggressive tannins of other 1980s vintages, Ms Sutcliffe says. She describes the '81s as "seriously under-priced".

Other good claret vintages are the opulent, yet balanced '85s and the firmer, more classic, slower maturing '86s. Even the '88s and '89s should not be ignored, and Mr Broadbent highlights "for value and drinkability" the useful, underrated '87 vintage.

Perhaps the soundest reason for buying one of the golden 1980s claret vintages at auction is the realisation that wines of their ilk are

greatly overpriced.

Other auction-room wine buys to snap up are the greatly

undervalued German wines, and even white burgundy. Ms Sutcliffe says single domaine, premier cru chablis is a "tremendous bargain".

Vintage port is even more of a saleroom bargain, although there is less of it available precisely because of the low prices it has been fetching. The prized '77 vintage has not had the lift-off in price that was expected, and is now reasonably mature. Even the superb '63s are mostly fetching well under £300 a case.

LESS pricey port vintages in the 1980s with more general appeal include the '80s, '82s and '83s, and there will be plenty of those on offer at affordable prices. Look out too for the reportedly superior '83 vintage. Leading port wine producers to plump for are Taylor's, Graham, Dow, Warre, Fonseca and Noval. If you can buy only one case at auction, it should be vintage port.

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Before making your auction bid, attend a few sales to get used to the atmosphere. Bidding can go at a cracking pace, but if you have absorbed the procedures and worked out a firm upper limit for the wines you want, some cut-price vintage wine could be yours.

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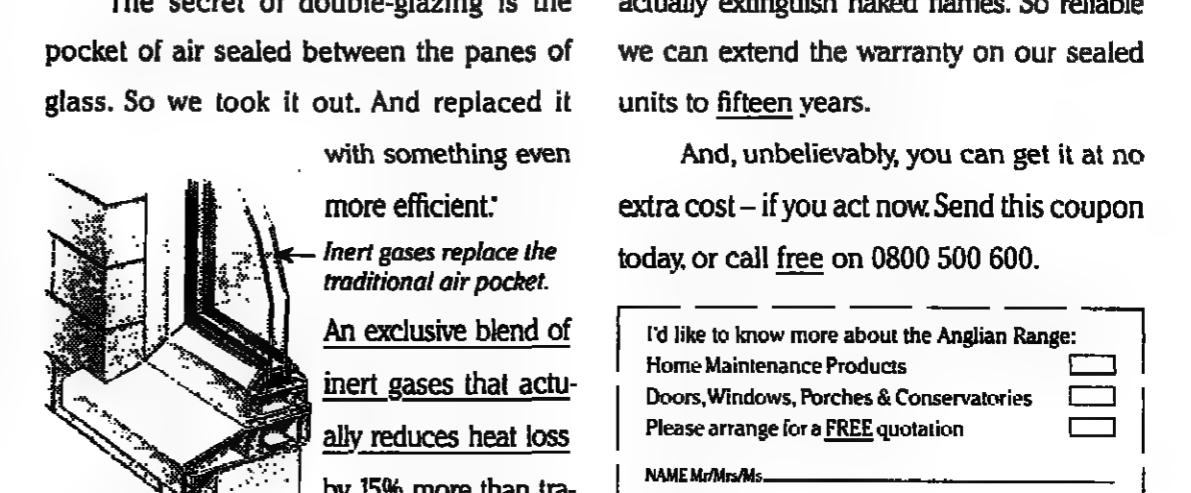
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All the news that's fit to print in black and white

This week I grasped one last bite of the summer before autumn took over. Like a man clutching at the last of the falling blossom and hoping to capture the spring, I took the horses and mower to the field of lucerne and made hay. Mid-September is not the normal hay-making season but lucerne is a generous crop which has given us three harvests this year. I have read that some years she will give four. But it is not for her generosity that I admire her — it is her scent. The perfume of the lucerne when it has been cut and allowed to wither in a desiccating northwesterly breeze has a seductive quality that Parisian perfumers would be hard pressed to match.

At least, that is how I felt about it on Friday. On Saturday it rained, and the lucerne became just another sodden, mucky mass. That, I have found, is traditional

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

farming. Romance one minute and a slap in the face the next.

But this is by-the-way, compared with the news you are eagerly expecting on the developing relationship between me and our new white cow, Sage. Last week I poured out my broken heart about how, despite lavishing generous sums of money to buy a cow with which I could develop a working relationship, things got off on the wrong foot.

My approaches were met with indifference. Even a bucket of sugar-beet nuts (the equivalent of giving a girl a good dinner in the hope of a goodnight kiss) was spurned. I rashly promised further reports.

Well, you are not going to get

any. It has become all too clear that public scrutiny is no help in healing shaky relationships; too easy to read false truths into brief glimpses of other people's lives. For example, I brought her into the farmyard a couple of days ago for testing by the ministry's vet. I managed to slip a halter on her and lead her down the farm.

Had you seen us on this formal public occasion you might have thought we were the happiest couple in the world. Yet ten minutes later, as I released her from her capture, she slid out a rear foot with the clear intention of giving me a hefty kick. Had you caught only that moment in your telephoto lens, you would have a story about our union being heavily



on the rocks. Neither picture is entirely true. I shall make a statement in due course. No doubt the man with the long lens from the parish magazine will be snooping around, hoping for exclusive pictures of me mucking out the pigs wearing a footballer's costume, but I have determined to say nothing and will change the subject.

I do not know if it is the whiteness of the new cow that has inspired

me, but I have decided to discover the joys of whitewash and spruce up the stable, which can get rather gloomy in winter. I could easily have opted for a nice tin of Dulux but as you will be well aware, we never do anything the easy way here. Anyway, whitewash is a quarter the price and from an artistic point of view has an instant antique texture that no modern paint can match.

I discovered it is made by dangerously mixing hydrated lime and water, during which process great heat is produced. This is then used to allow, or candle wax, to be melted into the white slop to give it elasticity. I was about to set up a witch's cauldron and mix a gallon or two when a visitor told me of a man who sells it ready-made, in tins. It comes with a health warning. "It can sting can this stuff," he told me. "I found that out the hard way, I did."

"He fingered the zip on his trousers and grimaced.

Wearing gloves, and forgoing my morning gallon of tea in case I should accidentally repeat his stinging experience, I slopped away till I resembled the white cow myself.

Then ghost-like, I ambled round the corner to where the young Large Black sow, Phoebe, had given birth to ten piglets some hours before. All was well: ten silky black babies, each secured to a teat and sucking like vacuum cleaners.

It occurred to me that Alice, her mother, should be told the news of the birth. She is easily upset if events pass her by. Plastered in whitewash I stumbled to the orchard and broke the news. There was a grunt which I took to mean "Rejoice, Rejoice. We are a grandmother."

And there you have it. The latest news from this farm — in black and white. At least, all the news that's fit to print.

DENIZ MCNEILANCE

Events

□ Grand Henham steam rally: Steam engines, vintage cars, motor cycles, military vehicles. Henham Park, Blythburgh, Suffolk (A12/A145). Today and tomorrow, 10.30am-dusk. £2.50-£3.

□ Holly Hill Polo Cup: Field includes local teams. New Park, Brockenhurst, Hampshire (0590 23205/2409). Today, 2.30pm. £5.

□ Dartington championship dog show: Hounds, terriers, utility and toy groups today, gundogs and working groups tomorrow. South Park, Dartington, Durham (0125 313494). Today and tomorrow, 9.30pm. £5.

□ Frampton country sports fair: Demonstrations of angling, falconry, sheepdog, gun dog, game fishing, boat safety and clay shoot. The Park, Frampton Court, Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire (0452 470698). Tomorrow, 10am-6pm. £3.

□ Frapton country sports fair: Demonstrations of angling, falconry, sheepdog, gun dog, game fishing, boat safety and clay shoot. The Park, Frampton Court, Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire (0452 470698). Tomorrow, 10am-6pm. £3.

□ Battle of Britain air show: Seven-hour flying display including the Red Arrows, Nato aircraft, the French Air Force display team, Spitfires and Hurricanes. RAF Leuchars, Fife (0334 839471). Today, 1am-8pm. £7.50, concs £5, family £20.

□ Heavy horse show: Demonstrations and rides. Normanby Park Farming Museum, Normanby, South Humberside (0734 720824). Tomorrow, 1-4pm. Free.

□ Scarborough angling festival: On-shore and on-boat fishing competitions. Scarborough Sea Shore, Scarborough, Yorkshire (0723 85480). Today-Sept 27, various times. Free to spectators.

Heritage homework

Nicky Hughes meets a National Trust administrator

A shadowy figure stands half-hidden in the bushes. He has no business being there; it is dusk and the house and grounds are closed. Graham Damant, armed with a walking stick and reluctant dog, challenges the intruder, sending him off the premises with a few sharp words. All part of a day's work for a National Trust administrator.

In Mr Damant's care is Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire's greatest country house. Built in the mid-17th century with later contributions by architects James Gibbs, Henry Flitcroft and Sir John Soane, it has 350 acres of parkland shaped by Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton, a Gothic folly and Chinese bridge, a model farm specialising in rare breeds of livestock and 2,000 acres of estate.

Mr Damant took on the job seven years ago and says it was very much sink or swim. "Someone said to me, 'Here's a list of the house contents', someone else said, 'Here's how you do the accounts', and the night before I took over I went to the pub with the land agent who said, 'Here are the keys.' He has been swimming valiantly, assisted by his wife, Olga, ever since.

Wimpole Hall and its estate was bequeathed to the Trust in 1976 by Elsie Bambridge, Rudyard Kipling's daughter. She and her husband had rescued the property just before the second world war, when it was neglected and almost empty of contents. The couple filled it with antiques bought on their travels and in the salerooms, making it

and bumping into furniture. They don't enjoy themselves as much as they'd said.

Staging events where there can be greater control over timing and location is the key to attracting more visitors and filling the coffers, Mr Damant believes. "Of course we have to freeze a historic property in time because it helps us understand our culture, but, at the same time, events bring the place alive."

Dreaming up money-making schemes is his forte. Today Wimpole hosts opera and concerts, wedding receptions — from a simple buffet to grander celebrations which include a tour of the mansion and firework displays — classic-car rallies in the grounds, craft fairs and open-air jazz.

"To do all this you have to have an infrastructure to cope," he says, so he has put in train the trebling in size of the car-park and the restoration of the once-derelict Victorian stable block, which now houses a cafe, shop, toilets and visitor centre.

Children's enjoyment of Wimpole is dear to Mr Damant's heart, and a full-time education officer organises living history projects. Young children can dress as Victorian servants and act out their roles in the basement housekeeper's room, butler's pantry, servants' hall and the main house.

Mr Damant's day-to-day job is one of co-ordination. His farm manager may come and discuss the need for extra staff during haymaking, the head warden the role of offenders sent by the probation office to do community service on the estate; the house

and bumping into furniture. They don't enjoy themselves as much as they'd said.



Our houses in their hands: Olga and Graham Damant, caring for Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire

custodian disabled access. "Operating this place is all about letting the managers do the work," he says. "I'm only needed to sort out the problems."

Mr and Mrs Damant live in an enormous apartment within the house, each room bigger than the entire little cottage they own elsewhere. Privacy is an inevitable

casualty of the job, but the compensations far outweigh the disadvantages. Not just the satisfaction that comes from successfully running a complicated cocktail of history and commerce, but the sheer pleasure of the location. "Every morning I look out over wonderful parkland," he says. "It's like birds and swans, little owls and green woodpeckers.

There's such peace and quiet and tranquillity."

• Wimpole Hall, Arrington, Cambridgeshire (0223 207257). The farm is open from 10.30am-5pm and the house 1-5pm every day except Monday and Friday. Wimpole Hall is closed from November to the end of March. £3.40 farm, £4.40 for hall (£5 for both); child £1.50 farm, £2 hall (£2.50 both).

071-481 1920

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

071-782 7828

LADIES

THE HORSE EXCHANGE

To be perfectly honest, they're us all. California girls, there's Colorado, Connecticut, Carolina, Delaware, Florida, Georgia... shall we go on? Complimentary membership soon limited.

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LADIES

CARRING short, Fred, Bess, Retired - Dore, Box No 1353

CONTINENTAL Lady, London based, attractive, 30+, requires commitment of an intelligent, caring, considerate man. Share the good things in life. Please reply to Box No 1276.

DEVONSHIRE 26, attractive, short, 5ft 5, with long dark hair, likes to travel, wants to meet a man with a sense of humour. Please reply to Box No 1277.

POLE POSITION sought by charming, elegant and voluptuous blonde. Please reply to Box No 1278.

PRETTY pretty widow, 54, wants to meet a man, 40-50, to share her life. Please reply to Box No 1279.

SHREWD 44-60, clever, shrewish, would like to meet a man with a bold, strong, intelligent, well-educated, well-mannered, well-travelled man. Please reply to Box No 1280.

WITTY 26, attractive, short, 5ft 5, with a sense of humour, wants to meet a man with a sense of humour. Please reply to Box No 1281.

AMERICAN SHEER independent, resourceful and resourceful with a sense of humour. Please reply to Box No 1282.

AMERICAN 26, attractive, short, 5ft 5, with a sense of humour, wants to meet a man with a sense of humour. Please reply to Box No 1283.

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What's astir in the thickened soup?

Feather report

Aphabet soup is one of the great curses of our age. Conservation is littered with acronyms and hide among sub-clauses and sub-committees. But since I last wrote about it a year ago, the broth has got much thicker. Here is an updated guide to the alphabet of conservation.

SSSI: Site of Special Scientific Interest. This is the bedrock of conservation legislation. There are 5,500 SSSIs in Britain, covering 7 per cent of the land surface. Once a site has been declared an SSSI, it should be sacrosanct. Would this were the case: visit the Flow Country and Morlich More, both in Scotland, Dorset heathland, and Thorne and Hatfield Moors near Doncaster, Yorkshire, to see how even with this high designation the will to conserve is lacking at the top.

RSBP: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Rich charity with large membership. An increasingly radical campaigning body for conservation. Largest voluntary wildlife conservation body in Europe.

LB: Little Brown Job. Anything from a dunock (unbelievably common) to an aquatic warbler (rather rare). Simply small brown bird, but often a fiendish identification conundrum. Bird books are full of them. LBs often have a lovely song, but that is no help outside spring. These are unglamorous birds that cling to anonymity.

ESA: Environmentally Sensitive Area. Places that are good for wildlife because of the way they are farmed. Example: lowland wet grassland and reeds are essential for water-loving birds, and would be destroyed by agricultural drainage. Under the European regulations that govern ESAs, farmers are paid to farm in an environmentally friendly fashion.

In general terms, this tends to involve lower intensity, fewer fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides, lower yields and lower energy costs. **NCC:** Nature Conservancy Council. Formerly the government's statutory conservation body. It was disbanded under a classic divide-and-rule ploy by the Thatcher government. This effective piece of tooth-pulling left us with:

EN, SNH and CCW: English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales. These are existing quangos that do their best in reduced circumstances.

JNCC: Joint Nature Conservation Committee: body that represents all three above organisations. It does not replace the NCC: there is a nor-



Little Brown Job: the dunock

so-subtle difference between representing a single organisation and co-ordinating three.

LRP: Little ringed plover. The only British breeding bird that is almost invariably referred to by its initials. **RSNC:** Royal Society for Nature Conservation, the body that represents all the county wildlife trusts. If you are at all serious about conservation, you should be a member of your county wildlife trust: think global, act local, even in London.

SPAs: Special Protection Areas. These, under European law, are the most important bird areas in Europe. The EC directive requires member states to identify SPAs and take steps to preserve them. There are 238 potential SPAs in Britain. By last June, fewer than a quarter of them had been designated: one of the worst records in Europe, and another example of the government's attitude to conservation.

NTV: Not-Tickable View. Twitching term. If you are told that an overlying speck is a Baird's sandpiper, but you cannot in all conscience identify it for yourself and therefore tick it, that is an NTV.

Any twitcher will instantly own up to an NTV — so long as he or she already has Baird's on the list.

ICBP: International Council for Bird Preservation: Cambridge-based body with pan-galactic view of conservation. Hot on biodiversity, and the notion that extinction is the ultimate wildlife crime.

The alphabet soup is boiling over, but we must fight for our SSSIs and our LBs or the world will not be worth living in.

SIMON BARNES

• What's about *Birders* — meadow pipits returning to lowland winter sites. *Twinklers* — lancelored warbler. *Shetland*: skirne weggall. *St Marys, Isles of Scilly*: many grey phalaropes around the country. Details from *Birdline*, 0898 700222.

The Times, with United Airlines, offers readers Gateway to the USA: three exclusive offers for readers visiting America

Free flights to and in the USA

Experience the very best of the USA with *The Times* and United Airlines

Win one of 30 pairs of transatlantic return tickets to the United States of America in our *Times* Zones competition. This is only the first of three exclusive opportunities this week in *Gateway* to the USA which also invites every reader to:

• Claim a free mystery pair of return tickets for free flights within the USA and

• Save up to £2,000 with free seat upgrades on your transatlantic flights from either Economy to Connoisseur Class or Connoisseur to First Class.

TIMES ZONES COMPETITION

Our week one *Times* Zones competition offers you the chance to win one of 30 pairs of transatlantic return tickets to the United Airlines US destination of your choice, including five first prizes of two seats in Connoisseur Class. Each day this week we set you a brain-teaser constructed around a hypothetical United Airways traveller. Using your answers complete the application form printed on this page.

FREE FLIGHT TICKETS

Apply for a free mystery pair of return East Coast US domestic flight travel certificates today.

Your free pair of flight certificates will be valid for one route and selected at random from a range of destinations that could take you from any one of the United Airlines East Coast gateways of New York (Newark), Washington or Chicago (via New York-JFK) to either Orlando, Miami, New

Orleans, Denver or Phoenix. Your certificates will entitle you to two free Economy Class return flights on the specified route when you purchase your connecting United Airlines transatlantic flights to the relevant gateway and fly before January 31, 1993.

FREE SEAT CLASS UPGRADES

Readers of *The Times* who want to travel to the USA before February 1993 have a unique opportunity to cross the Atlantic in luxury with two free United Airlines seat class upgrades. You can choose to upgrade either from Full Fare Economy to Connoisseur Class, or from Connoisseur Class to First Class, with savings of up to £2,000 at current prices.

You will receive two single direct flight upgrade certificates. One certificate can be used per person for one seat upgrade on either outbound or inbound flights. Your upgrades are valid on any direct United Airlines transatlantic direct flight via either coast before February 1993.

To take advantage of this exclusive offer, you need to collect the 12 special tokens printed in *The Times* — one a day from last Monday to next Saturday (September 26) — and book your transatlantic flight with United Airlines before February 1993. You will find token six on this page. Details of how to claim your two free upgrades will appear in *The Times* on Saturday, September 26.

If you have lost any tokens contact *The Times* Backdates Dept, Tel 071-782 6137.



Birthplace of the skyscraper: home of the tallest building

Up, up and away

CHICAGO is America's second city, after New York. It was the birthplace of the skyscraper, and is the home of the world's tallest building, the Sears Tower, which is 110 stories high, full of shops and restaurants, and with an observatory on the 103rd floor. A famous elevated railway runs through this city where seven million people live. If you include the suburbs.

Yet though it may sound like an urban nightmare, it is also a splendid holiday town, basking on the southern shore of Lake Michigan. The factory chimneys of the past have gone: the lake can be as blue as the Mediterranean, and along the shore there are great parks and superb sandy beaches.

Not much is left of old Chicago, which went up in flames in the Great Fire of 1871. Twenties Chicago, which everybody associates with prohibition and Al Capone, is still there, comparatively quiet now. One of the great twentysies hotels is the Drake, where heads of state get rooms on the 10th floor and anyone can eat the fish in the Cape Cod Room. Bus and boat tours of the architectural sights are provided by the Chicago Architecture Foundation through its Architour. A notable area is Oak Park, where the architect Frank Lloyd Wright lived, as well as Ernest Hemingway.

Chicago is a great ethnic mix, with about 80 distinguishable ethnic communities, including Greeks, Poles,

A plot to brighten the future

Rosie Atkins meets a couple who bought a designer garden for £8,000

Taking on a garden in the country after moving from a mews house in London was daunting for Martin and Linda Hunter. The front garden of their new home in Weybridge, Surrey, comprised an assortment of rhododendrons, birch and Scots pines, happy in the acid soil. But they felt the back garden was boring and characterless.

The Hunters' cream-painted house, built about 1947, has an open, almost Mediterranean, feel. They have always enjoyed modern furniture and sculpture and decided to cheer up the garden by commissioning a fountain from the sculptor Polly Jonides. Eventually a magnificent marble fountain, with entwined fish, replaced the apple tree on the lawn, but created a new problem. "We loved the fountain but somehow it just made the rest of the garden look even more dreary," says Mrs Hunter who, like her husband, is a lawyer.

Then, while he was watching the BBC2's *Gardens by Design*, Mr Hunter saw a garden created by Paul Cooper, a sculptor turned garden designer, and decided to get in touch. Despite the relatively small size of the Hunters' back garden — about 200ft wide by 80ft deep, much of the original land having been sold for development — Mr Cooper agreed to meet them.

Mrs Hunter says they were nervous at first, because they did not want anyone to impose ideas on them which they were not brave enough to say they did not like. But Mr Cooper spent a lot of time discussing ideas, and got a feel for the Hunters' style by looking around the house. He was attracted by a recently installed stained glass window, which throws splashes of colour down the sailwell. Later he produced drawings based on a series of circles, echoing the pattern of the stained glass window. The Hunters were captivated.

There were two main problems with the garden for Mr Cooper: the featureless lawn, and the wide but limited depth of space dominated by a neighbour's 20ft high leylandi hedge. "In a small garden a change of level can look tree," says Mr Cooper, who prefers to use architectural plants to add height or, as in this case, the structural shape of a pergola.

A path and a river of water-worn pebbles now connect the fountain with a textured, white-painted wooden sphere at the end of the garden which is dissected by fat slices of glass that glint like a cascade of water. "The pergola gives the garden greater depth and a more interesting view from the windows," Mr Cooper says.

The Hunters negotiated with their neighbour to cut 4ft from the top of the hedge, which brought more light into the garden. They had automatic watering systems put in, and Mr Cooper designed a screen to hide the greenhouse and vegetable garden. "The screen also shades the greenhouse in summer, and bare twisted stems in winter."

Mr Cooper visited the garden four or five times to see how the work was progressing. The most memorable visit was during the building of his "Greening of Industry Garden" at this year's Chelsea Flower Show for the chemical company pbi, designed for Pershore College of Horticulture in Worcestershire. When the Hunters heard he had won a gold medal, and the "Sword of Excellence" for the best garden at the show, they broke open the champagne.

The Hunters obviously enjoy the relationship they have built up with artists and designers. "Here in Britain we prefer to buy the past rather than invest in the future, which is a pity," Mrs Hunter says. "In America they love buying modern sculpture because there is so little past to buy."

Many of Mr Cooper's early sculptures, based on the geometry of plants and created from metal, wood and stone, have found their way into American museums and collections. "Sculpture is a great way into a more unconventional approach to garden design," says Mr Cooper, who feels horticulture is steeped in too much tradition.

Initially the Hunters tried setting out their ideas on paper, and almost bought a large number of specimen trees to make their back garden more interesting, but realised now they could have made an expensive mistake. "We want to live here for the rest of our lives and we didn't want a garden which would require a great deal of main-

nance," Mr Hunter says. Mr Cooper took this into account, with the result that the Hunters have a custom-made garden which they feel has been worth every penny.

So what did it all cost? Mr Cooper charged £500 for the drawing, which Mrs Hunter has traced and made into an embroidery. The construction work, which came within the £8,000 estimate, was carried out by college leavers recommended by Mr Cooper.

If you cannot come up with the solution yourself, the Hunters believe there is much to be gained from bringing in a garden designer. It is just a matter of finding the right one. "Polly, Paul and Jo have become real friends," Mrs Hunter says. "We exchange Christmas cards — and you wouldn't get that from the garden centre, however much you spent."

• Paul Cooper, *Aspects Garden Design*, The Old Forge, Ross Road, Huntley, Glos (0452 308984). Polly Jonides, 5 Wickham Road, London SE1 1PF (01 692 1939).



Something different in back gardens: Linda Hunter and the designer Paul Cooper on the patch that became a modernistic vision

Terms and conditions Gateway to the USA

Full conditions of free domestic flight and upgrade redemption/ticketing procedure will be sent to you along with your certificates.

Generally applicable:

1. All instructions for entering the competition and claiming your pair of flight or upgrade certificates form part of the rules. 2. No correspondence will be entered into. 3. Only adults over 18 are eligible to claim/enter. 4. Promoter: Times Newspapers Ltd, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. 5. Times Newspapers Ltd can take no responsibility for claims/entries that are illegible or defaced upon receipt and these will be disqualified. 6. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. Times Newspapers Ltd takes no responsibility for the condition of certificates received via the post or for any issue connected with or arising from the redemption of the flight or upgrade certificates on which correspondence can only be entered into with United Airlines. 6. United Airlines guarantees that all passengers will benefit from the usual and customary rules for handling international and US domestic passengers. However, in the case of scheduled flight delay or malfunction, United Airlines will not provide alternate means of transportation for passengers but will properly accommodate these passengers until such times as the next scheduled United Airlines flight to the requested destination at the requested class is available. 7. Seals limited to space available for this offer. 8. Certificates are not combinable or transferable and have no cash value. 9. Normal Times Newspapers Ltd promotions rules apply available on request.

Free class upgrade:

1. Claims must be made only on the official claim form to be published in *The Times* on September 26, 1992, and 12 tokens numbered 1-12 will be required to validate your claim. 2. You will receive two single direct flight upgrade certificates. One certificate can be used per person for one seat upgrade on either outbound or inbound flights. 3. Upgrades expire on 31 January, 1993, and are valid on scheduled United Airlines flights having one flight number between the UK and the US to any United Airlines destination. 4. Your two free upgrade certificates will be despatched to arrive within 14 days from the closing date of 3 October, 1992. 5. Your upgrade(s) must be booked through United Airlines within 24 hours of departure and not before. 6. Upgraded seats will be subject to availability.

The Times Zones Competition Week 1:

1. The prizes will be awarded to those entrants who answer all five *Times* Zones questions (Monday to Friday) correctly. Complete the tie-breaker on the application form in today's *Times*. In the most apt and original way to decide the award of prizes in the event of more than 30 correct entries being received. The five best correct entries (in the opinion of the panel of judges whose decision will be final) will win the five pairs of Connoisseur tickets. 2. A list of winners' names and addresses, the answers and winning tie-breakers will be available from the Promotions Department at the promoter's address after 31 October, 1992.

Free domestic flight offer:

1. No travel dates 18-29 November, 1-3 January and 8-10 January, 1993. 2. Free flight certificates valid only with a United Airlines connecting flight from London to the specified United Airlines gateway. 3. No purchase is necessary and a free pair of

certificates is available from the address published on the application form in today's *Times*. One claim will be allowed per household either on plain paper or the application form. Closing date for receipt of claims is September 26, 1992 and your pair of free flight certificates will be drawn at random from a possible 12 different routes and despatched within 14 days after the closing date. 4. Reservations must be made and international tickets obtained at least 7 days prior to travel.

Free class upgrade:

1. Claims must be made only on the official claim form to be published in *The Times* on September 26, 1992, and 12 tokens numbered 1-12 will be required to validate your claim.

Answers (use 24-hour clock)

Question 1 — (Local Time) hours

Question 2 — (Local Time) hours

Question 3 — (Local Time) hours

Question 4 — (Local Time) hours

Question 5 — (Local Time) hours

Please complete the following tie-breaker using no more than 10 extra words in the most apt and original way:

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Closing date September 29, 1992. Usual *Times* competition rules apply. Winners will be notified by post.

Please allow 14 days for delivery of your free flight certificates.



TOKEN 6

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DO NOT SEND TOKENS WITH THIS FORM

Please send me a pair of matching return travel certificates from an East Coast Gateway. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for despatch (minimum size 11cm x 20cm).

WHERE TO WALK

Monumental island passage

With the possible exception of the tiny island of Flotta, whose oil terminal processes 20 per cent of North Sea oil, all of Orkney is a walker's paradise. Despite excellent ferry and air links, it is wise to confine yourself to two or three islands on one visit. Having said that, Hoy and the Old Man should not be missed. The "Jessie Ellen" runs throughout the day between Stromness and Hoy. From Moaness Pier follow the road inland, uphill past the old Post Office, which you'll recognise by its red telephone box. It is worth noting that this backwater of an island (population 600) boasts sophisticated telecommunications equipment, and for anyone who can't live without them, fax machines and mobile phones will work here.

At the top of the hill there is a splendid view over the nearby island of Graemsay and the Burray Sound, strewn with rusting wrecks, ships sunk in the two world wars as an impediment to enemy shipping. Take the left turn past the Old Kirk and the youth hostel.

A little further on bear right, following the signpost to the Dwarfie Stone. This isolated block of sandstone, circa 3000BC, is a rock-cut tomb with a passage and two cells, said to have been occupied by trowsies (fairy folk). The road now narrows to a single track that cuts through a beautiful valley. On the right is Orkney's only mountain, Ward Hill.

This entire area is now a 9,000-acre RSPB reserve and the island has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of the abundance of birds and wild flowers. Keep an eye out for "heather bulls", huge fur-coated caterpillars that like to sunbathe on the track. A warning for smokers — in a dry summer, heather moor is a tinder box.

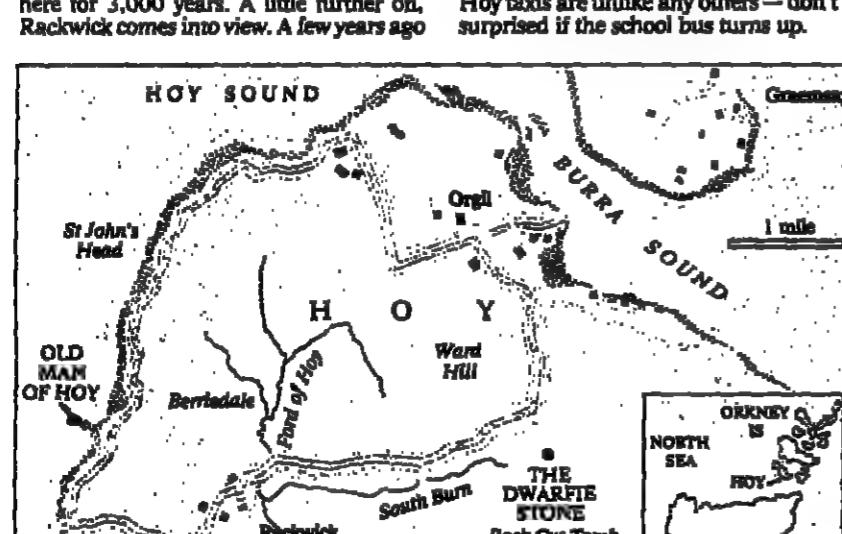
As you cross the Ford of Hoy look up to your right to see Berriedale, Britain's most northerly natural woodland. Rowans, downy birch, aspen and hazel have grown here for 3,000 years. A little further on, Rackwick comes into view. A few years ago



The Old Man of Hoy

about a mile further on, where a promontory gave protection for an Iron Age fort, built 2,000 years ago. The remains are still visible in the form of a 6-ft high mound. You can pick up the track here to Moaness Pier.

Allowing for detours to see the Dwarfie Stone and Rackwick Beach, this 18-mile walk will take the best part of a day. Take waterproof clothing — Orkney weather is unpredictable. There are no catering facilities along the route, so a packed lunch is advisable. For the less active, a taxi will take you from Moaness Pier to Rackwick, picking you up later in the day. Hoy taxis are unlike any others — don't be surprised if the school bus turns up.



WHERE TO STAY

Dine well, sleep soundly

• **KIRKWALL:** This is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Britain and the small Albert Hotel is in the heart of the conservation area. A meal in its Stables restaurant is a must; the young chef has a delicate touch, his queen scallops are the best I've eaten and deep-fried Orkney farmhouse cheese is a pleasing change from camembert. Ferry aficionados will appreciate the list of 30 main Double room and breakfast £64.63, single £41.13, à la carte dinner for two about £30 (0856 872389).

• **STROMNESS:** If you want a joint that jumps the Ferry Link, overlooking the harbour, is the spot. At night the public bar is packed and booking is essential for the restaurant. A room in the annex assures a quiet night. Double £21, single £19 (0856 880280).

• **ST OLA:** The Foveran Hotel has superb views over Scapa Flow. Bobby and Ivy Corsie are the hosts at this small hotel, four miles west of Kirkwall, whose restaurant

won the Taste of Scotland award. Try Shapinsay Duck, succulent Westray prawns, or a huge crayfish. Window tables are provided with binoculars. Double room £65, single £40 (0856 872389).

• **STROMNESS:** If you want a joint that jumps the Ferry Link, overlooking the harbour, is the spot. At night the public bar is packed and booking is essential for the restaurant. A room in the annex assures a quiet night. Double £21, single £19 (0856 880280).

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NEXT SATURDAY

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There is a shorter, three-day Western and Central tour available on certain spring, midsummer and autumn dates. This leaves

Edinburgh on Tuesday morning and ends in Perth on Thursday evening. Limousine back to Edinburgh provided £1,350 per person.

There is also a four-day Northern and Eastern tour, joining in Perth and finishing at Edinburgh (£1,950 per person).

Reservations can be made through Abercrombie & Kent Travel, Sloane Square House, Holborn Place, London SW1W 8NS (071-730 9600, fax 071-730 9376).



BEST OF BRITAIN

ORKNEY

Ros Drinkwater absorbs the potent magic of 5,000 years of myth and legend in these spectacular northern isles — and learns which end of a cow matters most

In Orkney, you can believe the world is round. Beyond the wide sweep of Skiall Bay, sea meets sky in a great curving arc that embraces everywhere the ancients trod.

There is a magic in these islands, and it has created 5,000 years of myth and legend. The Ring of Brodgar is a circle of standing stones 340ft in diameter; was it a neolithic lunar observatory, or a family of giants turned to stone by a malevolent force, as legend says? Stand in their shadow as the sun sinks, with the wind whistling across the Loch of Harrah, and the legend is believable. Who slept in the round tomb at Maes Howe, Britain's best example of a chambered cairn? Hogback, the spirit of the sacred site, is silent.

"Na na, lassie, you're lookin' at the wrong end — wif' cattle a bonny face is nae use at all. Big curvy hips, that's what you look for. The value's all the back end." Practicality, not magic, is the farmer's stock in trade. At the Stromness auction a procession of cattle shied and skidded round the ring, while men in tweed suits and flat caps made their bids by no more than a blink, a wink or the tap of a finger nail.

Tourism now earns the area more than agriculture, but farming is still the heart of Orkney, a tradition begun by Stone Age settlers who tended their stock, built their henge monuments and fashioned necklaces from sheep's teeth, 1,000 years before the Egyptians thought of pyramids. In prehistoric times the North-South divide worked in reverse, the treeless Northern Isles of Orkney had a greater promise of prosperity than the British mainland with its impenetrable forests.

Despite an astonishing archaeological legacy — there are said to be three sites of historic interest every square mile — the earliest Orcadians remain an enigma. The settlement at Skara Brae tells more than most. In 1850, above the shoreline of Skiall Bay, a storm blew away the sand dunes and uncovered the houses and alleyways of a small dry-stone village built 4,500 years ago. In some cases the walls stand to eaves level, and the alleyways still have their original slab roofs; internal fittings are intact, beds, dressers, boxes, all hewn out of stone, giving a clear picture of domestic life, down to the damp-course of blue clay — but yielding no clue to the inhabitants' race, creed or language.

The Picts and the Papae, Celtic clergy, leaving Stone Age man, leaving a second mysterious legacy of settle-

ments, barrows and brochs (circular stone towers). From tomb inscriptions we know the Picts had a written language, but it has proved indecipherable. The written history of Orkney begins with the Viking invasion of AD 790, and the six centuries of Norse rule are gloriously chronicled in the *Orkneyinga Saga*, a 12th-century transcription of Orkney's oral traditions: a powerful blend of historical fact and fanciful tales of trowsies (fairy folk), mermaids and seal folk.

This golden age ended abruptly in 1468, when the king of Denmark pawned the islands

to the Earl of Orkney, to honour his martyred uncle Earl Magnus. The cathedral took three centuries to complete and its style ranges from Romanesque to Transitional to Gothic. In places, yellow sandstone alternates with red, Britain's best example of the use of two colours in pattern. By the high altar, a simple cross scratched on the stone marks the spot where the saint's bones were originally interred. By a 1496 royal charter the cathedral belongs not to the church, but to the citizens of Kirkwall, for all denominations.

From the sublime to the literally homespun: across from the cathedral a sign in a shop window reads: "Handknitters wanted for Fair Isle gloves, fingers only." Fingers only? A great part of Orkney's charm lies in the unexpected. Road signs that caution "Otters Crossing", flagstones on roofs, for lunch a "Stone-Age Ploughman's" of pickled herrings in bare bannocks, large round scones baked with barley meal, the recipe unchanged for 5,000 years. On the island of North Ronaldsay, seaweed-eating sheep are confined to the shoreline by a dry-stone wall that encircles the island, resulting in meat that is fat-free and tastes of game; and on the tiny islet of Lamb Holm, there is the miracle of Camp 60, two Nissen huts, transformed into a beautiful chapel by Italian prisoners in the second world war.

While the capital takes itself seriously, its rival, the fishing port of Stromness, is a lady with a dubious past. In 1841, with a population of less than 3,000, it had four tanneries, 36 pubs and its own whisky distillery. The latter closed in 1920 when the unthinkable happened and the town voted itself dry. This lamentable state of affairs lasted until 1947.

Stromness consists of a single narrow street that weaves and twists like the footprints of a drunken sailor. Alleys with extravagant names, including those of Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth. And then you reach the harbour, all bustle and fishing boats. Today giant cruise liners have taken the place of whalers and the Hudson Bay fleet, but the tradition of hospitality lives on, and after dark the pubs and inns echo with music and laughter.



Lonely sea and the sky: looking across Rackwick Bay



Praying for an end to hostilities: Italian POWs

landmark of sorts. It begins as Ness Road with the Double House, built in the last century by a woman shipping agent who in one year employed 800 whalers; at South End there is Login's Well, which supplied water to the ships of the Hudson Bay Company, the Franklin and Cook expeditions; a little further on, on the site of the old Orkney distillery, lives the island's most famous son, poet and novelist George Mackay Brown.

As if spurred on by his presence the street then bursts into cultural activity with the museum in Alfred Street, three bookshops between Dundas Street and Graham Place, and the Pier Arts Centre in Victoria Street, with its fine collection of 20th-century works, including those of Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth. And then you reach the harbour, all bustle and fishing boats. Today giant cruise liners have taken the place of whalers and the Hudson Bay fleet, but the tradition of hospitality lives on, and after dark the pubs and inns echo with music and laughter.

With the arrival of progress and the gramophone, George Mackay Brown, a fiddle player, hung on the wall, a facsimile of him, mounted by George Mackay Brown. "What is an island without music?" he is asked in answer to his question.

1970, he arranged a remarkable coincidence in the shape of Hoy between the poet and young avant-garde composer Peter Maxwell Davies, on his first visit to the islands.

It is a fanciful thought that there might be a parallel between the two.

All aboard the extravaganza

Feel like entering a never-never land of luxury and idleness? Royal Scotsman, where the heathered hills slide past as

noon, who first came up with the notion that it was possible to be indulged and cosseted while rattling along a railway line?

This same breed of long-distance American travellers made up about three-quarters of our number on the Royal Scotsman. From my favourite armchair at the veranda end of the observation car I watched them over pre-dinner cocktails. Old George Pullman would have been proud of this car. The brasswork on the ceiling fans glints in the light from the little frosted glass lampshades. Halfway down the coach a potted palm rises from an underground growth of easy chairs and sofas. There is a china bowl of bright red apples on one of the polished wooden tables. The carpet of dark blue sets off the polished, chestnut-coloured wood paneling of the walls. There are engravings of Edwardian狩獵 and a china cabinet.

From the moment we were puffed aboard, via a red carpet laid out on platform 19 of Edinburgh's Waverley Station, reality fell away. We became suspended in some stately never-never land of luxury and idleness in a style we generally refer to as Edwardian, though no Edwardian ever had it so good.

It was an American, George Pullman of Chicago, Illinois, who first came up with the notion that it was possible to be indulged and cosseted while rattling along a railway line. The hand-written menu in brown ink is important. The tasteless brutality of the typewriter has no place here.

There is room for 32 passengers

covered hills of the West Highlands slide past. The marlins slide down. According to the menu, hand-written in brown ink, we are to get fillers of Aberdeen Angus beef with marrow sauce and a wine from California.

The hand-written menu in brown ink is important. The tasteless brutality of the typewriter has no place here. There is room for 32 passengers (the company prefers to call them "guests"), but we are only about 20, with nearly as many crew. We are looked after by a gang of cheerful young Fiona and Cathie of the wholesomes found behind the best hotel reception desks. They are discreetly hard-working, but seem to be grinning and laughing all the time, as though the whole thing is a tremendous lark.

There is also Flora from Skye, our guide. For this is not just a train journey. This is a short course in Scottish history, with location visits via a coach which meets us at some of the stations.

A couple of days later a glass of madeira, the MacLean's at their House on Loch Rynd, MacLean walked us round the garden while the gallant James Bond, according to our guide, had what I suspect was a ride on the

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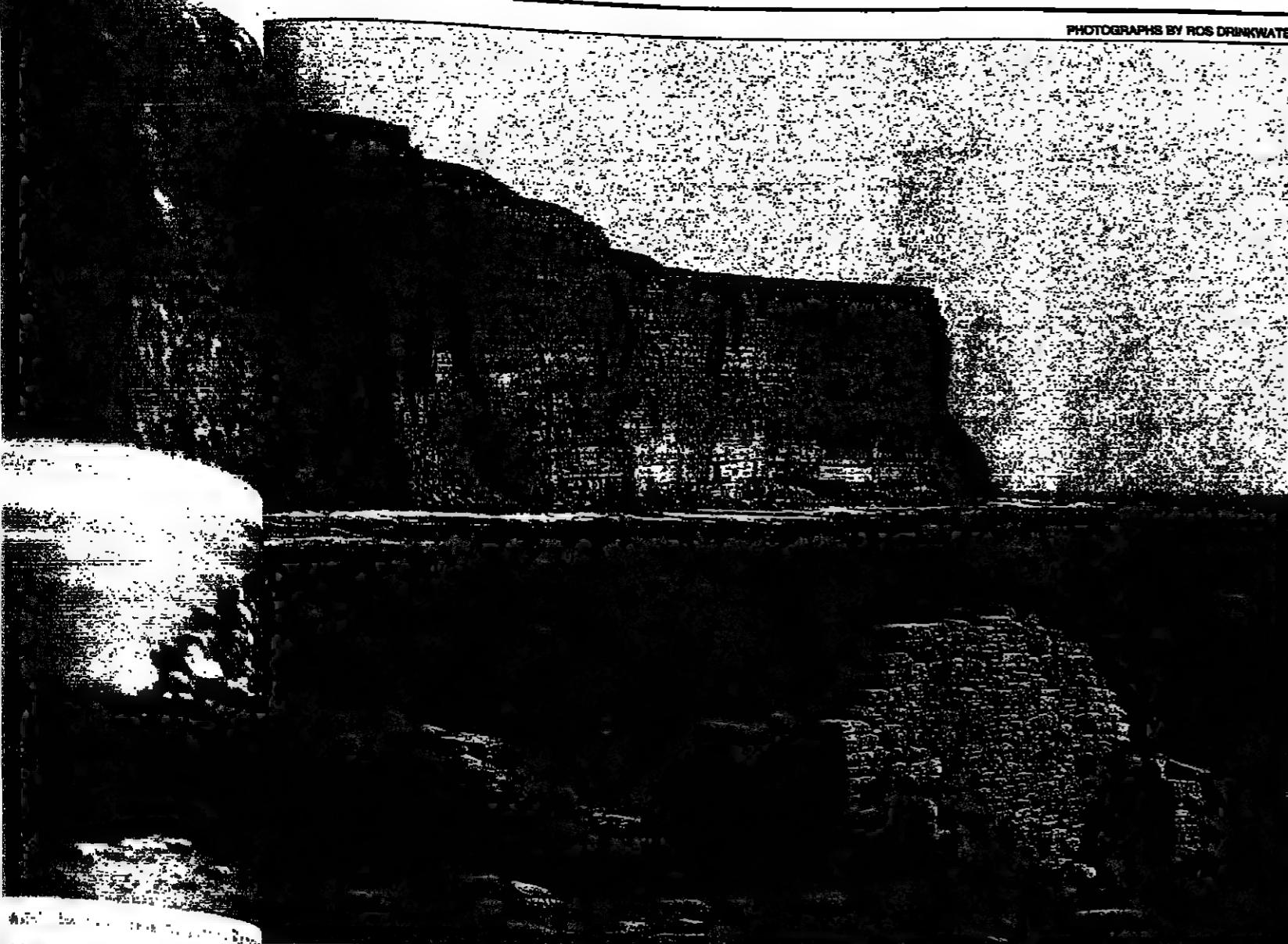
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One side of Hoy. Only 20 of the islands are inhabited, some of them with a population of one — the summer bird warden



Chapel in a Nissen hut at Lambholm Sir Peter Maxwell Davies in Hoy Safe anchor in Stromness harbour Holy way: St Magnus cathedral, Kirkwall

the tale of the fiddler, for instance, Maxwell Davies has really gone home. After meeting with G.M.B. he had to spend six months of his time here, and since then has in all his music on Hoy. In he inaugurated the first St Magnus Arts Festival, now the highlight of the Orcadian calendar, and every summer the Hoy Kirk plays host to his summer school, an intensive week course ending with a concert by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra of the works used. Sir Peter, as he now sums up his experience on Hoy very simply: "The magic place got to my music." Though the concert at the Kirk is booked out, the island has an even greater attraction in the Old Kirk, a rock stack as tall as St Paul's cathedral. It first led national consciousness in 1967 when television viewers treated to a day-long live broadcast of its first ascent. In doing terms it is classed as a "very severe", due to a series of punishing overhangs.

express

Take a ride on the Orient Express

house boasting affectionate sages from members of the 1-family on the piano. The size of the train knows no bounds. The fact that our art-heavy group was shepherded to the local gift shop, where our host made himself available to autograph copies of his books, also helped to explain it was all about. They are not wide-eyed novices in our group. Marella from Miami Beach did Afghanistan, Jordan and the Lebanon in "they all blew up". But can't bear a spell on a good train, she says. You can relax, not have to worry about getting off at airports or dealing with customs officials, at about the Orient Express? "It's in the same league," says accountant from Manchester. "We found ourselves queuing for the loo in the corridor in dressing gowns."

PEARSON PHILLIPS

For long-distance weekends, see Saturday Review

are moored in little wayside huts in order that our sleep should not be disturbed by unseemly motion.

But I sense that some of my high-powered companions are not as easy-going as I am. Being locked into a mobile time warp displaced from reality makes some of them uneasy, particularly if they have left business on the boil. There is a rush for the *Financial Times* in the mornings. I am normally a silent breakfaster, but over fresh kippers straight from Loch Fyne I find myself cornered into discussing the American election and the world economy.

To me it all seemed pretty perfect. Apart from anything else there is the astonishing scenery. The colours are wonderful, several shades of heather offset by the bracken turning yellow and the scarlet rowan berries. People beside the track laugh and wave at our stately carriages in Royal Purple livery.

At Perth I had to return to reality. The train carried on north without me. The Lady from Lima waved her handkerchief. That's the trouble with trains — they leave you standing on the platform.

SOPHIE CHAMIER

HOW TO GET THERE

- By air: British Airways Heathrow to Kirkwall via Aberdeen, regular economy return £404, excursion fare with restrictions £217 return. BA and Loganair fly daily to Kirkwall (except Sundays) from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness.
- By sea: P&O Ferries operate a daily roll-on/roll-off car ferry from Scrabster, near Thurso, including Sundays in summer, and weekly from Aberdeen to Stromness. A summer passenger ferry also operates from John o'Groats to Burwick.
- By rail: ScotRail stations are located at Thurso and Wick. You may have to change trains at Inverness.

WHAT TO DO

Every water sport is catered for on Orkney, from sailing and windsurfing to diving and fishing. Due to the Norse Udal Laws, which Orkney still retains, the six main lochs, Harra, Stenness, Househouse, Hundland, Swannay and Kirkibister, which are well stocked with wild brown trout, are freely accessible to anglers. The best sea angling can be had in and around the Pentland Firth and up the West side of Hoy. Sub-aqua thrives in Scapa Flow where you can dive on the sunken first world war German fleet, scuttled by Admiral Ludwig von Reuter in 1919.

LUXURY ON THE MOVE

• **InterCity Luxury Land Cruises**
Tours of scenic Scottish railway lines, such as the West Highland Line from Fort William to Mallaig, or the route between Inverness and Kyle of Lochalsh, run fortnightly, leaving London on Friday evening and returning Sunday night. The price of £180 is fully inclusive of first class travel in traditional Pullman-style coaches, accommodation, meals and refreshments. Everyone is guaranteed their own sleeping cabin in air-conditioned, sound-proofed sleeping cars, with en-suite washing facilities. In summer Land Cruises go to other destinations such as the West Country (0543 254076).

• **Days out on the Orient-Express**
The British section of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express departs from London's Victoria station on its luxurious day trips to Hever Castle or Leeds Castle in Kent, or Bristol, Bath and Salisbury. Original carriages from the 1920s and 30s which have been faithfully restored are featured, and champagne sets the tone for the day. Prices start at £135 (071-928 6000). For those from out-

side London wishing to stay in London overnight, the Grosvenor Thistle Hotel (071-834 9494) is the most conveniently situated for Victoria. An overnight stay on Friday, Saturday or Sunday costs £96 for a twin or double room including full English breakfast, service and VAT.

• **Settle-Carlisle Railway Buffet Break**
The Tunton Arms Hotel (07683 51593) in Appleby-in-Westmorland runs Railway Weekends in conjunction with David Alison of Tracks North (0539 846666). The approximate price of £125 per person includes two nights' accommodation, full English breakfast, dinner, minibus and train transport for conducted tour of the Settle-Carlisle line.

• **Hebridean Island Cruises**
The luxury alternative to Scotland-by-boat is a four or five-night cruise around Scotland's highlands and islands, recommending next March. The Arran Suite will set you back around £1,000 for four nights, but middle-range cabins start at £550 (drinks and wine extra) (0756 701380).

CAROL LEONARD | ment shared responsibility



Sweet-sounding children: Roseanne Townsend with (from left) Jessica, James, Miranda, Sebastian and Harriet

Music while you grow

Jane Bidder on the new weekend activities for budding musicians

This morning, while their contemporaries are glued to children's television, nine-year-old twins Jessica and Harriet Townsend will be playing the cello and violin in a junior string orchestra at the Musciale music club in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. Their sister, three-year-old Miranda, who belongs to the toddler musical appreciation group, will be singing and clapping a line of crotchetts and quavers, while their elder brothers Sebastian, 12, and James, ten, practise the euphonium and saxophone.

The Townsends are not alone. Weekend music clubs are springing up all over Britain, offering a wide variety of music for a range of age groups. Harpenden's Musciale was founded two years ago by a mother of four, Gillian Johnston, because "there weren't enough local facilities to encourage very young children to sing or play instruments. Toddlers can sing before they can talk, and they're more than ready to develop their facilities."

Tiny tots such as Miranda start off with the Colour String programme (a Finnish concept), which teaches the 250 under-sevens who attend the Musciale to understand music theory through games and colour. Instead of the traditional five-line stave, beginners are given one line with the words "do", "ray" and "me" in different colours. Rhythm games teach two and three-year-olds to sing the basic crotchet pulse and beat in time. Four-year-olds learn the difference between high and low notes by touching their feet, legs, arms and heads as the notes rise. Toddlers also use percussion instruments to reinforce the rhythm.

Roseanne Townsend (mother of Miranda, Harriet, Jessica, Sebastian and James) abandoned the piano herself at the age of 11. But her children's enthusiasm is so infectious that she now plans to start again as an adult beginner. Meanwhile, she sees the £40 termly fee (per child) as "an investment. If the children can play an instrument, they've got it for life. It's like another language".

Elizabeth says she loves going to music school on Saturdays. "We play lots of games my favourite is when someone goes out of the room and the teacher hides a violin bow. When the child comes back to find it, we all play loudly when he's near it and softly if he's looking in the wrong place."

Not all music clubs are private — many local education authorities have their own Saturday morning gatherings. In Buckinghamshire, the Aylesbury Music Centre has 700 members ranging from six to 21 years, paying a termly fee of £15.75. Small beginners often start with the recorder, violin or cello, while more experienced children use the mornings to play as a group. Others prefer to sing with the junior choir.

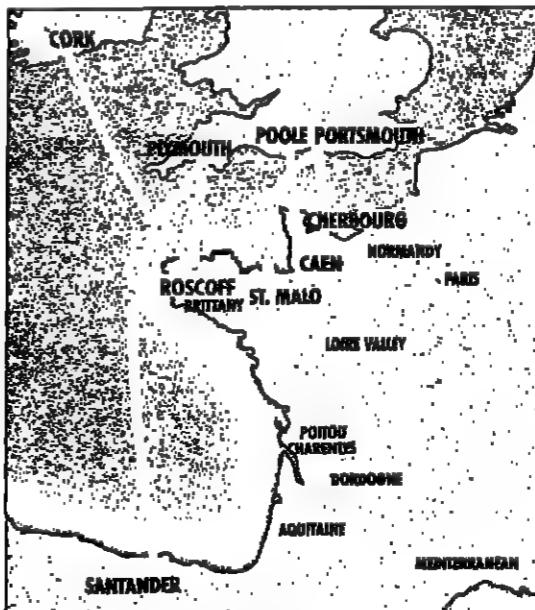
Hugh Molloy, the head of the Music Centre, which was founded 26 years ago, says music is often seen as a middle-class pursuit. "But we get children from families who've never explored this area and it's very exciting to watch mum, dad and grandparents coming along to watch Johnny play the trumpet. That way, you get everyone involved."

In a unique project to lift musical creativity in our schools, starting in January 40,000 primary schoolchildren and 16 British orchestras will unite to rehearse and eventually perform a new work by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (see left). The Turn of the Tide

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Brittany Ferries

Leaves that set autumn aflame

Francesca Greenoak visits aboreta to discover the secrets of late season colour

After weeks of late summer rain and gloom I am unusually eager to chart the earliest flames of autumn. My garden is still a dripping green, apart from the crimson-edged currant foliage, but the sumach trees across the lane are streaked with amber. The *Robinia "Pisifera"* has (thank goodness) exchanged its sickly yellow-green for rich, bright yellow, and the crab apples are hung with red and yellow fruits.

The French reckon autumn to be in by Toussaints (All Saints' day, November 2), but there are early harbingers that flag the season well before this.

As we encounter the first frosts of the year, the rugosa rosehips are already large and shining orange-red, and the rowan trees, rifled by the birds for their scarlet fruits, are letting fall foliage which has turned to a delicate shade of apricot-beige.

The smoke trees *Cotinus* are terrific shrubs for good-sized gardens. I prefer *C. obovatus*, the American smoke, and the green-leaved *C. coggygria* to the purple-foliated cultivars. The young pinkish-brown leaves turn to green-blue, and in September go into their repertoire of orange, flame and purples. *C. obovatus*, reckoned one of the best trees for autumn colour, grows in most soils and will accept pruning.

A glimpse of another nation's approach to gardening is always interesting. I was captivated by the unusual trees and shrubs at the Belgian arboretum at Kalmthout, to the north of Antwerp, owned by Antwerp province. Established by two energetic and unconventional tree enthusiasts, Jelena and Robert de Belder, Kalmthout is beautifully designed, incorporating superb collections of maples, witch hazels and ornamental cherries.

The garden's robins are already brilliant in yellow and gold, and the special collection of maple *Acer palmatum* cultivars is one of the earliest and most glamorous in early autumn, turning through a range of oranges and crimson.

Prunus sargentii is one of the few cherries not to suffer from depreciation by bullfinches, according to the new edition of the Hillier Manual of Trees and Shrubs. Allen Coombes, a main contributor and

Gardens to visit

- Dorset: Langmoor Manor, near Charmouth, has a natural landscape of woodland and lakes, a Victorian vegetable garden, scented courtyard, museum and animal courtyard.
- Charmouth: take the A35 W of Bridport, second exit from the Charmouth by-pass, signed to Lyme Regis, and the garden is 200yd on left. Tomorrow, noon-6pm, £1.50, child 50p.
- Cwmd: Dolbadair, a four-acre garden near Trefnant, has herbaceous borders, unusual plants and lovely views of Vale of Cwmd. Trefnant: S from St Asaph on A525, towards Denbigh, turn left by Thatched Cottage restaurant and the garden is half a mile on the right. Tomorrow, 2-6pm, £1, child 50p.

the curator of the Hillier Arboretum at Romsey, which is run by Hampshire county council, provides visitors with information on plants of current interest. Not to be missed this month is the brilliant gold of the large liquidambar tree, which is one of the arboretum's glories. Several maple species are colouring early, notably red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and sugar maple (*A. saccharum*) and an unusual kind known as *A. henryi*, a smaller tree, brilliant red in autumn.

The witch hazel named Jelena, bred at Kalmthout has become a favourite shrub all over Europe, for its orange winter flowers. The head gardener, Harry van Trier, is keeping a close eye on the new cultivar. Even more spectacular in autumn, the foliage is at first marginated with yellow which suffuses throughout, then turns to scarlet. At Romsey, however, Mr Coombes prefers Hillingbury for witch hazel colours "brilliant reds, purple and orange".

• Kalmthout Arboretum, 25km N of Antwerp (on Kalmthout B2920), Belgium: open daily until Nov 15. Open Sat. The Hillier Arboretum, Jermyn Lane, Ampfield, Romsey, Hants: open Mon-Fri, 10.30am-4pm (weekends until 6pm); Nov-Feb, Sundays only, 10.30am-dusk.



Pillars of fire: scarlet-leaved trees dominate the Ten Acres garden at the Hillier arboretum in Hampshire

BEST BUYS

PLANT daffodil bulbs now. Select large, plump, firm, mould-free bulbs; avoid those with shoots or small offsets. Smaller, early kinds of daffodil such as February Gold (usually flowers in March), Jack Snipe and Peeping Tom go well in turf or beds. Larger trumpet or large-cupped kinds such as the yellow Charter, Gigantic Star or the double Golden Ducat look more at home in beds. Not all daffodils are yellow; there are delightful, scented narcissus-types such as *poeticus*, peculiar whites and pink-trumpeted varieties.



Harvest: main-crop carrots

WEEKEND TIPS

- Rake lawns thoroughly, taking out dead grass and moss.
- Take blackcurrant cuttings, choosing 8-10in/20-25cm shoots. Cut off soft tips and place in a trench with only the top pair of buds showing.
- Bring indoors any tender pot plants, such as scented geraniums.
- Begin to lift and divide old and crowded herbaceous plants; repot only the younger, more vigorous outer parts.
- Lift main-crop carrots to reduce carrot-fly damage.

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

CAROLINE CHARLES

Fashion designer



Where would you go? Como, Italy—the home of lovely fabrics. Every season there is a trade fair called Ideal Como: I have to go for work and always want to stay for fun.

How would you get there? In a six-seater private plane to Milan. There's something extraordinary and glamorous about flying in a private plane; there are little sofas and armchairs to sit in, and a delicious picnic with smoked salmon and champagne. At Milan there would be a driver waiting to take me to Como in a new Jaguar XJ220.

Where would you stay? In a six-seater private plane to Milan. There's something extraordinary and glamorous about flying in a private plane; there are little sofas and armchairs to sit in, and a delicious picnic with smoked salmon and champagne. At Milan there would be a driver waiting to take me to Como in a new Jaguar XJ220.

What would you play any sport? Two sets of tennis in the evening.

What luxury would you take? My luxury is having three days off to spend with my family.

What piece of art would you like to have there? Beautiful textiles: 17th-century brocades and damasks, 18th-century silks, and drapes by Fortuny. I'd have them hanging from poles on the walls and draping over sofas. I'd like to touch them, wear them.

What essential piece of clothing would you take? A slim, black jersey skirt that is 34in long, three white crepe blouses and one black dandy jacket—all Caroline Charles, of course. I always wear black and add colour with scarves that I drape round my face or waist.

Which medicines? Dispirin.

What would you have to eat? Pasta with truffles and tiramisu, a wonderful pudding made with chocolate-topped coffee custard.

What would you have to drink? San Pellegrino, an Italian fizzy water; orvieto, a local white wine; fresh orange juice and Veuve Clicquot.

Which books would you read? I would re-read *Byron*, by Peter Quennell, a biography of Lord Byron who spent much of his life in Italy, and *Thomas Mann's Death in Venice*.

What music would you listen to? Alex, who is a musician, would bring his guitar and rehearse his new songs, and we'd listen to our opera favourites—Mozart, Verdi and Richard Strauss—sung by Maria Callas.

What film would you watch? *L'avanture* and *The Leopard*, two great Italian films.

Would you play any sport? Two sets of tennis in the evening.

What luxury would you take? My luxury is having three days off to spend with my family.

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Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

SHOPAROUND

FRENCH

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OPEN 7

In an even more desperate housing market, Rachel Kelly suggests stripping out the wallpaper and chintz for a tempting, no-frills 1990s look

How to sell your house

Number 20 Upper Phillips Gardens, in Kensington, west London, might be thought of as the perfect house. The white-stucco, late Victorian house has six bedrooms, a drawing-room, dining-room, morning-room, library, and study. The patterned wallpaper and carpets are in perfect condition; so are the swagged curtains, polished sycamore cupboards in the kitchen, marble-clad bathroom, and marbled verdigris columns decorating the dining-room. All very Colefax (as in Fowler). Even the ashtrays and the soap, it seems, match the décor.

Yet the house had trouble selling. Bought in the late 1980s for £1.8 million, its contents were worth another £250,000, and it was put on the market earlier this year for £2 million. As the months slipped by, the price slipped down. It was finally sold for just over £1 million.

Its history typifies not just the house price collapse endemic to central London (Savills estate agent's index of prime London property shows house price falls in the capital of 22 per cent between their peak in 1989 and June of this year), but also the shift in what is perceived to be desirable by buyers. All-singing, all-dancing, all-decorated houses, known as "turkey" houses in the trade, are not. No 20 was seen not as decorated, but decorated to within an inch of its life. To the buyer's eye, it was hardly judged and overdone, a 1980s house.

"It's certainly my feeling that buyers are now wary of what they see as over-decorated houses," says William Gething, whose company Property Vision acts for buyers and is a barometer of their desires. "I would stress that it is only a point of view, and there will be examples of heavily decorated houses that have sold well. It is just my perception of a trend."

Decorators agree. Joanne Wood of Joanne Trading in Chelsea has created many an English country-house look. She would in the past have swagged, ruched, studded, frilled, patterned, chintzed, painted, swirled and ruched again, to her clients' delight. Even her clients could tell differences from emulsion. With some more cushions for good measure. English antiques and heavily scented flowers, the English

cluttered look was complete. Now Ms Wood notes its demise. "People want something different now," she says of her work decorating show flats and grand London houses. Welcome to the 1990s.

"The country house look has been toned down. Everything is a great deal cleaner and simpler. There's not a frill in sight, hardly a flower, or a chintz. A room with more than four patterns is confusing. This is the restrained 1990s."

Candida Lyett Green, a contributing editor of *Vogue*, says: "When the flouncy, frilly, chintzy style had reached boiling point by the mid-1980s, my reaction was to revolt against it and go back to stark simplicity: plain, natural colours and oak floorboards, a cleansing operation after all the clutter. It isn't just a style thing, but part of a movement which is revolting against the complications of modern life."

It's not that people have stopped spending money, Ms Wood points out. "If anything, people are more discerning now. They are not going to say 'Isn't that lovely?' to great swathes of Laura Ashley. They are more informed and aware of the clichés. The absolute criteria now are quality and value for money."

Instead of admiring a sofa's glistening chintz, Ms Wood's typical client now might sit on it and make sure it is well sprung. Nothing synthetic will wash in the *fin de siècle* interior. "Materials are very green," Ms Wood says. "Only the purest silk, linens, cottons, wools. Natural and well-constructed fabrics in simple colours and patterns, like a simple stripe." Designs are "back to basics", she says, with furniture which is properly made and works well. Colours tend to be browns and beiges, known in decorating circles as "earthy colours". Enriqueta, the Bath decorating company which runs 12 franchises, notes the shift from the grapey colours of the 1980s, dominated by mauves, pinks and reds, to the colours of ancient Egypt, terracottas and sky-blues.

Such simplicity has extended into the garden. Knight Frank & Rutley says that remarkable gardens are handicapping the sale of houses. "Most people are looking for something which is easy to maintain," says Richard Gaynor, from Knight Frank's Guildford office.



Understated: "It isn't just a style thing, but part of a movement revolving against the complications of modern life," says Candida Lyett Green, pictured at home in Wiltshire

Mr Gaynor recalls one house with a garden designed by Gertrude Jekyll. "Everybody looking at the property gazed in admiration at the garden, and in despair. Not really a garden by a top designer like Jekyll is a big attraction, but this particular garden required too much daily work for most prospective owners. However, no one wanted to be the vandal who simplified it."

Ms Wood is designing many more arboreta and fewer herbaceous borders in recognition of the mood. "Exteriors tend to move much more slowly than interiors," she says. "It takes longer to grow than redecorate, but the trend is definitely changing. Anything which needs tremendous tender loving care is out." Simplicity permeates the Lyett Green's garden. "We planted apple orchards which need no maintenance and put geese in them instead of

mowing machines. It's the pastoral idyll," Mrs Lyett Green says.

The ideal-sized garden, according to Rupert Sweeting from Knight Frank, is an acre of formal garden with five or six acres of land attached. "The rest of the land should comprise paddock, orchard, or open parkland," he says.

The arrival of 1990s simplicity is most apparent at the top of the market. As the mass retail market interprets *haute couture*, so the décor of prime residences sets the tone for lesser properties. Yolande Barnes, head of research at Savills, traced the 1980s ruched and swagged look from its origins in the prime London market until it filtered down to the Wimpey and Barratt show houses. "It was adapted and adopted by the builders," she says — often unsuccessfully. Whereas the height and grandeur of a No 20 Upper Phillips Gardens could take such elaboration.

It can often swamp a smaller room.

Today's restraint at the top of the market may in part stem from the changing Zeitgeist of the 1990s, in part from the changing conditions of the property market. People expect to stay in their houses for longer, seeing their homes not as investments to be traded.

"They want to know that decorations will last, that things like tiling are adequate," Ms Wood says. "They can no longer guarantee that property will go up in value there is no margin of error. And people will be staying in their homes longer. They are much fitter."

Ms Barnes also identifies the influence of American buyers in the prime London market. It was they who were most seduced by the English country-house look, she says. And of all foreign buyers, it is the Americans who have withdrawn most from the London

market. In 1988, 5 per cent of overseas buyers were American; now only 2 per cent are Europeans, accounted for 5 per cent in 1988, 8 per cent now.

Americans tended to want the English antique-and-chintz look," Ms Barnes says. "Our research shows that Europeans prefer a far simpler look." While the 1980s could be typified as an American-dominated decade, when greed was good and Wall Street ruled, the 1990s is the decade of Europe, Ms Barnes says. The 1990s house is essentially European, understated, interchangeable across countries.

Typical of such a house is No 26 Cornwall Gardens, SW7. The semi-detached house has white walls, beige sofas and curtains, and stripped wooden floors. The flat was sold through Property Vision earlier this year, predictably to a European buyer. "The flat had all its period plasterwork and fireplaces but was painted very simply in white throughout, with beautiful joinery and floors," Mr Gething says. "It appealed enormously."

Candida and Rupert Lyett Green's six-bedroom farmhouse in Wiltshire on the edge of the village of Huish in Pewsey Vale, which is on the market with Savills for £1 million, also exemplifies the 1990s mood for simplicity and practicality in the country. "It has become embarrassing to most people to display wealth," says Mrs Lyett Green.

Howard Eiston from Chesterfield, which sold No 20 Phillipine Gardens, confirms the view. "Nothing is easier to sell than a perfectly plain, uninteresting house at the moment. People used to be happy to buy a lifestyle," he says. Now, it seems, they want to create their own.

Cure for the surgery



Mind-readers Delphine Saba and David Lightfoot, who created "a feeling of indolence and opulence"

Delphine Saba lives in a magnificent 18th-century Grade II listed terrace house in Devonshire Place, near Oxford Circus in central London. When she and her husband, Geoffrey, the concert pianist, bought it 11 years ago it had been used as doctors' surgeries.

The house was dull, old-fashioned and in bad condition. Now it has been restored, with three floors of beautifully proportioned intercommunicating reception areas and eight bedrooms.

"I loved the house because it had perfect symmetry," says Mrs Saba, who studied fine arts in Melbourne, and then architecture.

Mrs Saba loves the good things in life, and this includes her surroundings. "A feeling of indolence and opulence is what I like. My rooms have to have three qualities of light: it is to do with living in the tropics," she says.

Her first task on moving in was to put on "lots of paint". She and her husband did their fair share, and even painted the outside of the house, climbing up scaffolding.

Three years ago she met David Lightfoot, a former joiner turned designer, whose attention to detail matched Mrs Saba's exacting demands. "When David rang up one day and said, 'my right arm has become an extension of your mind', I knew we would work well together. We work very much on a mind-reading basis." But they have

had their arguments. Mr Lightfoot says, with a hint of admiration: "She is an impossible client. She keeps changing her mind. She rang one day when I was in the middle of drawing up the work-bench in the kitchen and said, 'I've had a brilliant idea, why don't we

put a radiator there instead?'" Mrs Saba adds: "He fixed me for that when I got the drawings he charged double."

Mr Lightfoot has made the most of the house's architectural and all the sash windows. He fashioned bookshelves between the windows in the first-floor reception room. In the basement, he made the kitchen cupboards, door frames and tall, folding mahogany glass-panelled doors which allow light to flow between the living areas.

Mrs Saba rescued most of the old pieces she has added to the house from an architectural salvage company. "They begged me to take the two splendid stone fireplaces: nobody wanted them," she says. The old panelled doors in the basement and upstairs came from a castle.

Most of the rooms are decorated in white or pale colours — chandelier, dove grey. The first-floor double reception room is in stunning Chinese yellow. "I chose a strong colour that changes in different lights," she says.

Mrs Saba is passionate about Java, so leather Javanese puppets line the walls up the five flights of stairs. She has hundreds more in boxes, along with yards of exquisite Javanese textiles.

There are two attractive modern paintings in the house, commissioned by Mrs Saba. "I always wanted to live in an old house with pictures on panels on the walls. I realised that they did not have to be old pictures, so I asked Lynette Hemmant to paint them for me — but I designed them."

These paintings are full of allegory. One has a leopard which represents Geoffrey (because he cannot change his spots). I am the naughty child in the corner with a strong brush finishing off his nose.

The other painting, in the kitchen, is of a mermaid surrounded by fruit — it's me, after a rather good lunch."

The house is now for sale at £1,750,000 through the agents John D. Wood and Mrs Saba is looking forward to her next challenge. "I would love to design someone else's house, if they would let me," she says.

MARY WILSON

me & my designer

put a radiator there instead?" Mrs Saba adds: "He fixed me for that when I got the drawings he charged double."

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Heap of the week: Avondale, near Grangemouth, Scotland

Handsome and available

AROUND Edinburgh there has long been a pathetic necklace of handsome but decaying country houses, including Mavisbank and Melville Castle (featured last month). On a list that runs well into two figures, Avondale is more immediately rescuable than any. A new purchaser could move in at once.

Here is a fine example of Strawberry Hill Gothic with spiky pinnacles and battlements, but all on a cottage scale. Looking at the long, low facade, you would guess it contains 11,000sq ft.

This is rolling sweep country with few trees, close to the Firth of Forth and Grangemouth, and its industries loom a little too close. But the house is set amid its own broad acres, with the entrance opening almost directly off the M9 Edinburgh-Perth motor-

way, happily both out of sight and hearing. The drive passes straight through a toy fort and stable yard complete with tall, pointed archways, and the house comes into view almost immediately afterwards looking south over a stretch of former parks to a folly set on a gentle hill.

Originally known as Clarkstone, the house contains a 16th-century core and was Gothicised

in the 18th century for the Duke of Hamilton. Early in the 19th century it came into the hands of William Logan, and from 1922 belonged to the Salvesen family until it was commandeered in the second world war as a Polish hospital.

A few years ago, the estate of 200 acres was bought from the local farmer living in the house by Peel Estates. It obtained permission for a 15-year programme of sand and gravel extraction. At its closest the excavation will come within 200 yards of the house, but most of the site is thankfully out of view of the house.

Peel has now sold to Coalday Limited. The original agreement with the planners was simply to regrade the land, which would be lowered between two and eight metres and return it to grazing.

Subsequently, Falkirk District Council's search for new tipping sites has prompted the owners to start exploring the possibility of infill — a hole in the ground is valuable. John Holt, who joined Coalday from Peel, explains: "The house is in effect for sale with about 24 acres, but we will not market it actively until the tipping proposals have been sorted out."

Coalday has repaired the roof to ensure the house is wind-proof and watertight, and there is also a caretaker. The farmer who lived here for many years has continued in residence. The guide price is £100,000.

MARCUS BINNEY

For further information contact J.M. Holt at Coalday (0925 418479).

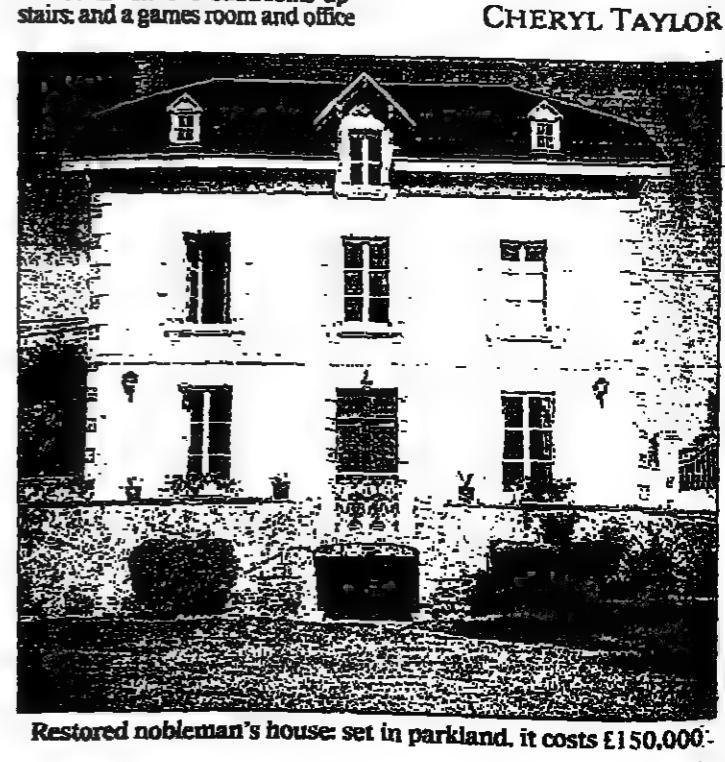
above. A separate, self-contained one-bedroom caretaker's cottage is included in the price.

The agent is Gerard Samier, 231 rue de Strasbourg, 36000 Chateauroux (01 33 54 38 96).

CHERYL TAYLOR

sale at £150,000, including agency fees.

The property has been fully restored and modernised, with central heating. It has two large reception rooms, fitted kitchen and WC on the ground floor; three bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs; and a games room and office.



Restored nobleman's house: set in parkland, it costs £150,000

area full of game, the great Loire valley chateaux are a short drive away. Burgundy and the Auvergne can be reached in about two hours.

South of the Loire, the region has mild winters and hot, although sometimes humid, summers.

Two hours along the A10 motorway from Paris, about four and a half hours from the Channel ports of Caen (Ouistreham) or Le Havre, the area has a good range of property from cottages and farm buildings to manor houses and chateaux, and prices are reasonably low. You can still find old stone barns and *fermeaux* (farm cottages) for conversion, priced from £15,000 to £20,000 if total restoration is needed, about £25,000 to £30,000 if structurally sound. Already restored, with a couple of acres of agricultural land, they cost from £35,000 to £60,000.

Village houses needing renovation, typically with two or three bedrooms and a garden, are priced from £20,000. Manor houses with some land cost from £150,000, at least twice that if fully modernised, and chateaux start at £250,000 for anything that is habitable.

The renovated 19th-century *gentilhommiere* (nobleman's house) pictured right is set in two-and-a-half acres of parkland alongside an 18-hole golf course, a few miles from the bustling market town of Chateauroux, in the Indre. It is for

BBC1

6.45 Open University: Projecting Visions (6725730) 7.10 Maths: Modelling Pollution (3315198) 7.35 Race for a Gene (7975575) 8.25 The Physics of White Dwarf Stars (6995020) 8.50 Playdays at the Dot Stop (r) (6375943) 9.10 News and weather (3459552) 9.15 Start Your Own Religion: Dr Colin Morris talks about starting his own religion with an audience at Westminster College, Oxford (s) (6275204). Northern Ireland: Dull Sa Dura 9.30 This is the Day. Tim Harbard talks to Tony Phelan at his home in Leeds about the joys of being single (77827) 10.00 Sign Extra: QED - The Battle of the Bottle Snatchers. Young engineers from America, America and Japan design and build robotic rubbish collectors (r) (14888) 10.30 Film: Dream One (1984). Children's fantasy adventure starring Seth Kibel and Jason Connery. Directed by Amaud Seligman (5571039) 12.05 The Hunchbacks (r) (8061914) 12.30 Country: Rita John Craven introduces the latest rural issues (8066514) 12.55 Weather (s) (9486659) 1.00 News (68800372) 1.05 The High Chaparral. Classic western series (r) (8890198) 1.55 Cartoon (5956791) 2.00 Eastenders (s) (55404) 2.30 Film: The Barefoot Contessa (1954). A sardonic look at Hollywood starring Humphrey Bogart, Ava Gardner and, in an Oscar-winning role, Edmond O'Brien. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz (88691643). Northern Ireland: All-Ireland Gaelic Football Final 5.35 Bitsback presented by Julian Pettrifer. Richard Jobson examines viewers' complaints about *Top of the Pops*. (Ceefax) (23952) 6.15 Lifeline: Mike Smith appeals on behalf of the Centre for Accessible Environments (s) (27488) 6.25 News with Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (320914) 6.40 Praise from Bristol Cathedral where parishioners representing local churches gather for a 450th birthday celebration. (Ceefax) (s) (529827) 7.15 Keeping Up Appearances: Patricia Routledge stars as the suburban sib in Roy Clarke's comic sitcom series. Hyacinth has the chance to do a spot of rural social climbing when she and Richard take over a country cottage. (Ceefax) (s) (24785) 7.45 The House of Elliott. Polished period drama charting the fortunes of two sisters and their fashion house. (Ceefax) (s) (574546) 8.40 Birds of a Feather: Pauline Quirk and Linda Robson star as the earthy comedy series. (Ceefax) (s) (559514) 9.10 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Weather (494339)



Pitch battle: Dennis Lawson exploits Eve Barker (9.25pm)

9.25 Screen One: Born Kicking
© CHOICE: A script by Barry Hines of *Kes* is built on the premise that an 18-year-old schoolgirl shows such talent as a footballer that she is signed by a league club and becomes a star in a team of men. Roxanne's ability to score winning goals with a few minutes left enhances the fantasy but Hines tries to ensure that from *Kicking* is more than a female version of *Roy of the Rovers*. Roxanne not only has her ups and downs on the field but finds herself exploited by the club chairman to promote his business ventures. In a fit of self-doubt she begins to wonder whether blazing a trail for her sex is worth it. This serious tone does not last long, however, and having made his point Hines is happy to let Roxanne (engagingly played by a television newcomer, Eve Barker) have the last kick. Dennis Lawson also scores at the manipulating chairman. (Ceefax) (s) (272052) 10.50 Everyman: After Charity. Eight Oxfam volunteers travel to north west India to see how the money they raised in the UK is being spent. (Ceefax) (920117) Northern Ireland: The Championship Special 11.40-12.20 Everyman 11.30 Film: The Club (1980) starring Jack Thompson and Graham Kennedy. Acrobatic Australian drama about a former football star who is dismayed to find that big business is taking over the club where he coaches (554669). Directed by Bruce Beresford. 1.05pm Weather (8419850)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

© Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites 6.00pm Hour of Power (298531) 7.00 Fun Factory (66753101) 11.30 The World Tomorrow (22872) 12.00 Lost in Space (20310) 1.00pm Chopper Squad (16730) 2.30 Trooper John (50559) 3.00 Enough (57283) 4.00 The Big Picture (45826) 5.00 Hart to Hart (72034) 6.00 Grove's Paris (57575) 6.30 The Simpsons (68277) 7.00 21 Jump Street (71681) 8.00 Roots: The Next Generation (68117) 10.00 Falcon Crest (70952) 11.00 Entertainment Tonight (50865) 12.00 Pages from Skylight

SKY NEWS

© Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites
News on the hour. 6.00am Sunrise (5030855) 9.30 The Report-

BBC2

6.35 Open University: Maths Methods: Fourier Analysis (6732020) 7.00 Modern Art: Duchamp (3324288) 7.25 Maths: Energy Through the Window (3334223) 7.50 Culture and Belief in Europe 1450-1600 (5163730) 8.15 Polar Oceans (6902778) 8.40 Instruments under Wraps (6758827) 9.05 What You Never Knew about Sex (6169204) 9.30 The Melbury Road Set (9735196) 9.55 Quantum Leaps into the Atom (4859598) 10.20 Wrapping up the Themes (6176469) 11.10 Survival Exams (1450952) 11.35 Wheels of Progress (2267370)

12.00 The Sky at Night with Patrick Moore (r) (s) (7555556) 12.20 Sunday Grandstand introduced by Terry Wogan. The line-up includes: 13.15 and 5.30 Athletics: The IAAF'slet Coke half world marathon championship Great North Run from Newcastle and further coverage of the IAAF world junior championships from Seoul; 1.15 and 4.30 Motocycling: The Motor Cycle News British supercup; 3.45 Three-day Eventing: dressage, cross-country and show jumping from the Burghley Horses (6804594)

6.00 The Blackpool Tram. A nostalgic look back to the heyday of Britain's first electric tramway (r) (Ceefax) (933)

6.30 One Man and His Dog. Phil Daniels introduces the second semi-finals of the single and brace championships. The commentator is Ray Ollerenshaw (s) (211643)

7.15 The Living Planet: The Baking Deserts. David Attenborough looks at how plants and animals adapt to their surroundings when he explores the earth's deserts. (r) (Ceefax) (766778)

8.10 The Look

© CHOICE: A six-part series on the international fashion industry starts by looking at the big Paris shows, using the culture of the catwalk to examine the politics and the economics and to introduce the key players. The fashion business is essentially about persuading people that each season they must switch to new colours, hemlines, cuts, fits and fabrics. The show is central to this, an expensive jamboree (costing up to \$200,000 for 40 minutes) designed to entice buyers and gain maximum coverage in the media. Trudging much the same path as a Clive James special of a few years ago, though without his jokes, the film reports on the squabbling for the best seats, the art student gatecrashers, what it takes to be a model and the pampered brats and hackettes who prove to be later every minute of (2385517)

9.00 Did You See...? 2.10 The Young Person's Guide to Money by writer Caryl Phillips. HM Inspector of Prisons: Justice Stories. Tumult and actress Stockard Channing who give their verdict on *Omibus*. Between the Lines and Dame Edna's Neighbourhood Watch (s) (8629333)

9.40 Time Passing: Wedding Day. The second of six short films about our experience of time features a composite wedding from six marriages that took place in Bristol Register Office on a day in May (551268)

9.50 Newsnight Special: France Decides. As the result of the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty is announced, Jeremy Paxman in London and Peter Snow in Paris ask how its implications will affect the millions of people living in the European Community (915407)

10.20 Film: The Lost Boys (1984). Ingenious horror story, with a leavening of humour, starring Kiefer Sutherland and Corey Feldman. A mother and her two teenage sons move to a small Californian town where the young tearaways are really a battery of vampires. Directed by Joel Schumacher. (Ceefax) (s) (520117)

11.55 The Night Stalker starring Darren McGavin as the investigative journalist. Tonight's attention turns to an exclusive advertising agency where the smart single people are turned into elderly corpses (716136). Ends at 12.50am



Backstage at the fashion show: a Chanel model (8.10pm)

7.00 The New Three Stooges (94669) 7.30 in Living Color (9575) 8.00 The Comedy Company (48319) 8.30 The Sunday Comics (58327) 8.40 10.00-11.00 Moonlighting (58314)

Ted Shackelford's baby (57662) 2.00pm An American Summer (1990) Michael Lanes soaks up the sun (61204) 2.30 Team of the Month: Heroes (1991) Pilot Chatton's team struggles to land his 10.20pm 2.30 The Next Chapter (1990) Children's tale set in the magical world of *Fantasia* (37469)

2.30 The Never-Ending Story II: The Next Chapter (1990) Children's tale set in the magical world of *Fantasia* (37469)

2.30 The Living Planet: Two Rusty Cowboys: The Last of the Bighorn Sheep (s) (79730)

3.00 Birds of a Feather: Pauline Quirk and Linda Robson star as the earthy comedy series. (Ceefax) (s) (559514)

3.30 The Look

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1.00-3.00 The Big League (74191)

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BBC1

7.25 News and weather (5422744)
 7.30 *Hallo Spencer* (7) (5194600) 7.50 *Babar* (n) (5278616) 8.15 *New Leslie* (r), (Ceefax) (6913884) 8.35 *The Jetsons* (r) (8766600)
 9.00 *Parallel 9*. Last in the series of the children's magazine programme (s) (7074772)
 10.55 Film: *Rogues of Sherwood Forest* (1950) starring John Derek. The son of Robin Hood decides to reform the infamous band of outlaws. Directed by Gordon Douglas (8922780)
 12.10 *Cartoons*. With *Barney Bear* (5786426) 12.27 *Weather* (7021451)
 12.30 *Grandstand* introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 1.25 *Football*: Rob Wilson and Gary Lineker reflect on the best of the action from the first leg games of the European club competitions; 1.05 *News*; 1.10 and 1.35 *Paralympics*: a look at the performances from the Barcelona games 1.25, 1.25, 2.25 and 2.55 *Racing* from Newbury and the Curragh; the Highclere Nursery Handicap (1.30); the Courage Stakes (2.00); Robey Farms Mill Reef Stakes (2.30); Coral Autumn Cup Handicap (3.00) from Newbury and the GPA National Stakes from the Curragh (3.15); 2.05 and 2.35 *Basketball*: highlights of the final of the Carlsberg International from Cardiff; 3.20 *Ice Hockey*: highlights of the second match of the Molson Challenge from Wembly Arena between the Montreal Canadiens and the Chicago Blackhawks; 3.30 *Football* half-times; 4.00 *Athletics*: the junior world championships from Seoul (34519971); 5.05 *News and weather* (3644567) 5.15 *Regional News* (2937884). Wales (to 5.50); Wales on Saturday
 5.20 *Dad's Army*. Jimmy Perry and David Croft's comedy series about the antics of a bumbling Home Guard (r), (Ceefax) (3381364)
 5.50 *Big Break*. Jim Davidson and John Virgo are joined by Cliff Thorburn, Ken Doherty and Terry Griffiths. (Ceefax) (s) (946123)
 6.20 *Bobby Davro* — *Public Enemy Number 1*. The comedian's guests are Frank Bruno, Judi Spiers, Nicholas Parsons and Kevin Judd. (Ceefax) (s) (728451)
 7.00 *Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game*. Bruce Forsyth and Rosemary Ford with another series of the game show. (Ceefax) (s) (7616)
 8.00 *Casualty*. Gritty medical drama set in the accident and emergency department of a city hospital. A father claims his three-year-old son has swallowed sleeping pills, but it emerges that the child has swallowed cannabis. (Ceefax) (s) (679593)
 8.50 *News with Michael Buerk*. (Ceefax) Sport and weather (262529)



Jack the lad: Nicholson's horny little devil (9.10pm)

9.10 Film: *The Witches of Eastwick* (1987)

● **CHOICE:** The witches, in this entertaining if filleted version of John Updike's novel, are played by three of Hollywood's most watchable actresses, Susan Sarandon, Michelle Pfeiffer and Cher. Add Jack Nicholson, as the horny little devil who comes to brighten up their dull and frustrated lives in a New England town, and the film can hardly go wrong. And nor does it, though some of the subtlety of Updike has been lost in the interests of making a bankable film. Nicholson, in particular, goes deliciously over the top as he seduces each of the women in turn and leaves them all with something to remember him by. *The Witches of Eastwick* draws on familiar Hollywood genres, notably the sex comedy and the supernatural fantasy, but brings them up fresh. The director is George Miller of the *Mad Max* films. (Ceefax) (s) (51246109)
 11.05 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of two of this afternoon's fixtures in the Premier League (s) (539890)
 12.05 Film: *Harvest of Hate* (1978) starring Denis Gruenwald and Kris McQuade. Moderate Australian thriller about a young couple who uncover a terrorist training camp in the bush. Directed by Michael Thornhill (5063759) 1.20am *Weather* (8465681)

SKATE

SKY ONE

● Via the *Astra* and *Marcopolo* satellites
 6.00pm *Desire* (5411616) 6.30 *Reckless* (7) (5192595) 7.30 *Holiday Destinations* (137222)
 2.30 *Nightline* (130) 8.30 *Those Were the Days* (40364) 4.30 *Financial Times* Media Europe (40345) 6.30 *The Reports* (41515) 7.30 *Evening Standard* (7) (5192596) 8.30 *Evening Standard* (5192597) 9.30 *Evening Standard* (5192598) 10.30 *The Reports* (62426) 11.30 *Financial Times* Media Europe (60556) 1.30 *Towel Destinations* (5192599) 2.30 *Evening Standard* (5192597) 3.30 *Financial Times* Media Europe (5192598) 4.30 *Evening Standard* (5192599) 5.30 *Evening Standard* (5192597) 6.30 *Evening Standard* (5192598) 7.30 *Evening Standard* (5192599) 8.30 *Evening Standard* (5192597) 9.30 *Evening Standard* (5192598) 10.30 *Evening Standard* (5192599) 11.30 *Evening Standard* (5192597) 12.30am *Weather* (5192599)

SKY MOVIES+

● Via the *Astra* and *Marcopolo* satellites
 6.00pm *Showtime* (10797)
 8.00am *How to Beat the High Cost of Living* (5192598) 9.30am *Evening Standard* (5192599) 10.30am *The Perfect Date* (5192597). A teenager's date goes hilariously wrong (517003)

SKY NEWS

● Via the *Astra* and *Marcopolo* satellites
 News on the hour
 6.00pm *Sunrise* (9136033) 6.30 *News from Europe* (5176001) 10.30 *Evening Standard* (5192599)

A place so magical even the stones sing.

From the 14th to the 16th centuries, well-heeled visitors to India found themselves drawn to Hampi in Karnataka. A city that put Rome in the shade, the "best provided city in the world", it spanned 15 square miles, and its markets overflowed with sapphires, diamonds, rubies and emeralds.

Now visitors take the three hour train journey from Bombay to survey the remains, the ruins of temples, palaces, baths and pavilions. Most poignant of all is the Vitthala temple, whose slender columns echo with music when struck. Though the laughter and noise of the inhabitants, their festivities, dancing and banquets have long since evaporated, the columns' plaintive notes still shied their sweetness on the desert air.



To: The Government of India Tourist Office, 7 Cork Street, London W1X 1PB Tel: 071-437 3677. Please send me more details of holidays in India.

NAME

ADDRESS

T 19/9/92

BBC2

6.40 *Open University*: *Includes 7.35 Imaging the Eye* (5275529) 8.20 *Women's Studies: Taking the Credit* (6059181) 8.45 *Maths: Finding One's Bearings* (8760426) 9.10 *Santa Maria del Miracoli, Venice* (184513) 9.35 *The Structure of Liquids* (9767797) 10.00 *The Tempest*: Act IV (5151426) 10.15 *Children First* (Ceefax) (9265155) 10.50 *Instruments Under Wraps* (8024703) 11.15 *The Export of Pollution* (1555451) 11.40 *The Successful Seven* (2293971) 12.05 *Foundations of Computing* (8092884) 12.30 *Open Skies, Grass Roots* (907884) 12.55 *Culture and Belief in Europe* 1450-1600 (5205136) 1.20 *The Case of Kerala* (7888567) 1.45 *King Cotton's Palace* (4562851) 2.10 *The Subject of Boeuf Bourguignon* (8651960) 2.35 *Walk Softly on the Earth* (3997136) 3.00 *Look Stranger: The Campbells Came by Rail*. A journey to the 15th-century home of a former Army colonel (r) (3558549)
 3.25 Film: *It Met by Moonlight* (1965, b/w) starring Dirk Bogarde. The true story of the wartime kidnapping of a German general from the occupied Island of Crete. Directed by Michael Powell (8182838)
 5.05 Film: *The Battle of the River Plate* (1956). John Gregson and Anthony Quayle star in the story of the sea battle between three British cruisers and the German battleship *Graf Spee*. Directed by Michael Powell (11949987)
 7.00 *News and weather* with Chris Lowe. Weather (716345)
 7.15 *Late Again*. Highlights from *The Late Show* (s) (495306)



The case for birth control: Dr June Goodfield (8.00pm)

8.00 *Cosmic Joke: The Other Side of Paradise*.

● **CHOICE:** A two-part series by the scientist and writer Dr June Goodfield takes its title from John Steinbeck, who said that the human preoccupation with its own survival was a ploy of cosmic proportions. But overpopulation, the subject of Dr Goodfield's film, is no laughing matter. She presents us with the telling statistic that for every person who dies in the world today three are born and looks at what two poor countries are doing about it. The answer in each case is a campaign to encourage family planning. In Indonesia, mainly Islamic, the slogan that "two children is enough" is squared with the teachings of the Koran. In Mexico the stem morality of the Roman Catholic Church is being bypassed as the government drives home the family planning message in soap operas, discs and pop songs (677109)
 8.50 *Damnedam*: *Wim Vandekeybus*. The Belgian choreographer and his company with the award-winning *Roseland* (s) (190155)
 9.40 *Time Flies* (9)

● **CHOICE:** series of six short films, being shown on consecutive evenings, take up the theme of time. *One Year* is a record of the first twelve months of the life of Victoria Wright, the child of a couple who have just moved into a house. The film includes the usual baby shots, as Victoria starts to crawl, talk, walk, feed herself and play with her children, accompanied by a mum's commentary. But the director, Charles Gerard, also tries something more ambitious, which is to put up a frontal shot of the naked child against a black background and show how it changes size and shape as the weeks go by. The result is undoubtedly novel, though the strain of trying to cram a year into ten minutes does tend to show (826797)
 9.50 *The Brain Drain*. Jimmy Mulville hosts a humorous alternative to *Question Time* (553277)

10.20 *Siobhan O'Conor: Coffee and Cigarettes*. The singer filmed during the recording of her new album *Am/I Not Your Girl* (685258)
 11.05 Film: *High Plains Drifter* (1973). Stylish, brooding revenge western, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. (Ceefax) (426180). Ends at 12.50am

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11.45 *Original Intent* (1980). A corporate lawyer helps to defend the *McCloud* (s) (467723)
 12.00 *Red Heat* (1985). Lively, violent adventure starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as a Soviet policeman who teams up with a Chicago cop (James Belushi) to capture a drug dealer. Directed by Walter Hill. (Orade) (s) (559242)
 12.20am *The Big E*. Magazine programme for and about young Europeans (s) (8657827)
 1.30 *New Music*. Interviews with some of the latest names on the pop scene (32285)

2.40 *Indy Car Racing 1991*. Highlights of the Bosch Spark Plug grand prix (9136759)

3.40 *Rhythms 'n' Raag*. Asian music (74983117)

4.40 *Coach*. American comedy (53443335)

4.55 *The Hit Man and Her*. Peter Waterman and Michaela Strachan introduce the latest on the club scene (8585136)

5.30 *ITN Morning News* (26339). Ends at 6.00

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5.45 *Granada Sports* (5173819) 6.00-6.40 *Granada Sports World* (5173819) 6.20 *The Man and Her* (47171) 6.45 *ITV News* (7723203) 6.50-6.59 *The Big E* (359314)

7.00 *ITV West*: *Edna's Neighbourhood Watch*. The housewife and superstar hopes to do for game shows what she has already done for talk shows. The audience is all female. (Orade) (s) (229613)

9.20 *Boxing* from the Scottish Exhibition Centre in Glasgow. Scotland's Pat Clinton defends his WBO flyweight title against Danny Porter from England, and Chris Eubank defends his WBO super-middleweight title against American Tony Thornton. Commentary by Reg Gutteridge and Jim Watt (512529)

10.05 *News with Ann Leathers*. Weather (5765426) 10.20 *LWT Weather* (5765426)

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